Hafa Adai!

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

75¢

WITH OVER $20M RELEASED INTO THE ECONOMY

Businesses seeing BRISK SALES

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Nick Jesse Sablan, 4, comfortably sits on a shopping cart while his brother Sidney John Sablan, 11, checks out shelf items, along with their mother, at the National Office Supply along Beach Road yesterday for back-to-school shopping. Businesses have seen sales increase during the past two weeks after the release of more than $20 million in retirees' 25-percent pension and interest payment on withdrawn defined benefit plan contributions.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Back-to-school shopping busier than usual

From home appliances to grocery items, school supplies, cars, and restaurants, local businesses are seeing brisk sales the past two weeks with the release into the local economy of more than $20 million representing interest payments on withdrawn defined benefit plan contributions and restoration of retirees' 25-percent pension.

This amount is a portion of the $30 million two-year advance license fee that Saipan casino resort developer Best Sunshine International Ltd. paid the CNMI government.

"The DB checks really helped. I got to buy all of what my children need for school," John Tagabuel, a 37-year-old father of four, told *Saipan Tribune* after he and three of his children went for back-to-school shopping at National Office Supply along Beach Road yesterday.

Tagabuel was one of those who received their DB interest payment checks last week, after contributing to the NMI Retirement Fund's DB plan for 17 years before he and others

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'Compromise' budget eyed within days

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Senate president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) appointed Friday three Senate conferees that, together with their counterparts from the House of Representatives, are expected to come up with a $134.33-million budget bill that is acceptable to both chambers as early as this week, less than a month before the budget deadline.

Hocog said if the conferees begin meeting today or tomorrow, a "compromise" budget could be done before the end of the week.

"If all goes well, we could have a back-to-back session as early as Thursday to act on the conference budget bill," Hocog told *Saipan Tribune.*

House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said he does not see any reason why a compromise budget bill won't be finalized "within days."

Sablan heads the budget conferees from the House, along with vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) and floor leader Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan).

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Tonga a world leader in seabed minerals law

SUVA, Fiji—The Kingdom of Tonga this month became the first country in the world to put in place a law that manages seabed mineral activities within its national marine space and under its sponsorship in international waters.

Tonga's Seabed Minerals Act 2014 was prepared with the assistance of the Deep Sea Minerals Project, a partnership between the European Union, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and 15 Pacific Island countries. The Act received Royal Assent from the King of Tonga on Aug. 20, 2014. This pioneering law, championed by Tonga's Minister for Lands and Natural Resources and his staff, and led by the kingdom's Attorney General's Office, with SPC support, positions Tonga at the forefront of good governance for this

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Local

PSS REACTION TO SLIGHT BUDGET HIKE

'$1.6M increase could help improve teacher-student ratio'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The expected $1.6-million increase in the Public School System's budget is expected to help improve the teacher-student ratio—now estimated at about 30-to-1—and may also increase the amount of local operational funds left over for every public school student—which is at a mere $49.36 per student per year—if the Legislature were to allow PSS to have discretion in the use of the funds, according to Derek Sasamoto, PSS director of finance and budget.

"Having an average of 30-to-1 or more is not the best-case scenario," Sasamoto said, noting that the Board of Education policy for student-teacher ratio is 25-to1.

Sasamoto said the $1.6-million increase is adequate for PSS to hire more than 20 new teachers.

He estimated that bigger schools like Hopwood Junior High School and Marianas High School still have ratios of 40-to-1, and added that because of previously limited funds, personnel costs were restricted so as to keep PSS from hiring all the full-time employees they wanted and instead made them hire substitute teachers.

In a board meeting last Tuesday, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan said a couple of positions in high schools remain unfilled for the new school year.

However, in an interview on Friday, she said that PSS has hired some of its long-term teachers from its substitute teacher pool to become full-time equivalents for the school year.

"Next school year, we hope when the budget passes, [it restores] the positions that we want," she said.

Per-student expenditure

The Commonwealth's $49.36 expenditure for each public school student is based on operational funding for fiscal year 2014, which first is obligated to personnel costs and then to utilities, with a little more than half a million in remaining funds distributed to schools based on their population sizes, according to Sasamoto.

"Every student walking around in the Public School System only has 49 dollars and 36 cents to their name for the entire year. That's it," he said on the operation funding available for the over 10,000 PSS students.

The CNMI averages about 60 percent of average expenditure per pupil in the U.S., according to PSS Federal Programs officer Tim Thornburg last week.

When comparing the local and federal funds that PSS gets every year, Thornburg noted that the federal share has been increasing as local funds decrease.

PSS received 26 percent of the local budget in 2013, which dipped to 23 percent in 2014, according to Sasamoto, who also noted that government revenues have gone up in the last two years.

Sasamoto said that if you look at overall funding, the federal government spends anywhere from about $12,000 a student, while PSS expends about $6,000 per student overall.

"It would be hoped that we could pick that up and be comparable to other U.S. states and jurisdictions," he said.

'Flexibility'

He cited a "better working relationship" with the Legislature as a reason why PSS may see the budget increase of $1.6 million.

"I guess they are giving us the benefit of the doubt that [we are] really are trying to hire personnel and bring down our class sizes," he said.

However he also expressed hope that some of the funds could be used to at least double the $49.36 expenditure per student if language in the bill gives them that flexibility.

"As director of finance, I would hope that I can take some of that money and funnel it into school operations, or maybe to pay CUC a settlement for all of the arrears to show them good faith efforts," he said.

Saipan Tribune reported Friday that the Legislature is expected to tighten the language on the PSS budget provision to ensure there won't be unnecessary salary increases for PSS employees.

Sablan reiterated Sasamoto's desire for flexibility, saying it is important to allow agencies to have the discretion of how funds are to be used to meet the needs of their operations.

"We are accountable for our actions so we will see to it that the funds that we receive are spent wisely in the classrooms, and so should there be flexibility? Certainly. If the Legislature wants to appropriate the money and earmark it strictly to classroom personnel then I want them to know that that is a priority anyway," she said.

House holds off voting on Sea Touch-DLNR lease deal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives held off voting on a proposed submerged lands lease between the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and Sea Touch Saipan LLC for a $1.125-million shark and stingray marine park project over what Natural Resources Committee chair Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan) said were remaining concerns, including the criteria for site election.

Benavente, during Thursday's session, told his colleagues that the Natural Resources Committee wants further "clarification." The bill was referred back to committee.

"No. 1, what's the criteria for site selection? No. 2, are there available alternative locations? Because of this, we feel that this bill needs to go back to committee for further review," Benavente said.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) echoed Benavente's position, adding that there are "quite a few pertinent information" that need to be "scrutinized."

Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), however, pointed out that most committee members already signed off or approved the committee report recommending passage of the bill approving the proposed DLNR-Sea Touch lease agreement.

While that is true, Benavente said there were other concerns raised after the report was prepared including the site selection criteria and alterative sites.

The committee recommended passage of Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-198, in the form of House Draft 1.

The proposed substitute bill ensures that the accurate square meters of the premises to be leased are reflected in the bill. The substitute bill, made in collaboration with DLNR, corrects the discrepancies pertaining to the combined leased area and to include the CNMI local grid coordinate system.

The accurate total square meters of the property being leased is some 1,481 square meters, from 4,575 square meters, located by the Fiesta Resort & Spa beach side in Garapan. The proposed lease is for $12,000 a year.

The committee version of the bill also changes the coordinates from four geocoordinates to eight CNMI local grid coordinates.

"Neither the change to the square meters nor the coordinates added or subtracted from the actual land that the parties negotiated and agreed to lease," the committee version of the bill states.

A public hearing on the bill conducted by the Natural Resources Committee drew support from those who testified in person and in writing.

The proposed submerged lands project area covers some 4,575 square meters by the Fiesta Resort & Spa beach in Garapan.

Saipan Sea Touch plans to build temporary holding pens for the sharks and stingrays, and a floating walkway on the shallow waters fronting the hotel.

If approved by the Legislature, the lease would be for five years. The lease may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years, with each renewal term of up to five years.

The House Natural Resources Committee, in its report, said granting of the submerged land lease will enhance tourism by providing a new tourist attraction and will also create new jobs and business opportunities.

KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Pediatricians coming to KCHC!

For most Wednesdays and Fridays starting in September, pediatricians from CHCC will be providing services at the Kagman Community Health Center. The pediatricians will be able to see well child checks, Head Start check-ups, any sick children visits, or any patients with chronic diseases.

If you would like to schedule an appointment or have any questions, please contact us at 256-KCHC (5242)

www.kagmanchc.org

HOURS OF OPERATIONS:
Mon -Tue: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm • Wed: 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm • Thu - Fri: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sat: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm • Sunday & Holidays: CLOSED

KCHC accepts Medicaid and Medicare, AETNA, NetCare, StayWell, and Calvo's insurance. A sliding fee discount is available for those without medical insurance. KCHC serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. "We serve everyone, not just Kagman residents."

SNORKEL LESSONS DENNIS B. CHAN

Several children and even a few adults join the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's second free CNMI Snorkels event at the Kilili Beach Park in Susupe. BECQ partnered with Let's Move Marianas and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance in an event that saw children snorkeling toward the submerged World War II Sherman tank in the beach's water.

DPS website hacked

» Group identifies itself as Middle Eastern Cyber Army
» DPS chief says they don't have resources to track down hackers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety's website was hacked over the weekend by a group identifying itself as the "Middle Eastern Cyber Army."

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said yesterday it was the first time their website, www.dps.gov.mp, got hacked.

Deleon Guerrero said a private Web service provider for DPS has already rectified the problem.

DPS police information officer Travis Hurst confirmed yesterday afternoon that the website has already been restored.

Hurst said the so-called Middle Eastern Cyber Army took control of the website and posted their information on the homepage.

"Due to the department's security measures, no other information was compromised and all data that deals with complaints and sensitive information is still intact," Hurst said.

He said they are working on restoring the website to its former configuration.

"We advise the public to not click any links that may be on the site at this time as it may be malicious in nature and cause damage to computers," said Hurst in the statement issued before announcing of the website's restoration.

Deleon Guerrero said they immediately coordinated with the Web service provider, which subsequently installed the required security features so the hacking does not happen again.

Unfortunately, Deleon Guerrero said, there is no cyber protection laws in the CNMI, so this will normally be a federal case.

He said their investigators will meet today, Tuesday, and evaluate the extent of the damage with the Web service provider.

He said if the damage meets a certain threshold, they may seek assistance from federal partners such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Realistically speaking, Deleon Guerrero said, DPS simply does not have the resources to track down the hacker or hackers and hold them accountable.

Island named after former mayor

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The much-loved and respected Prudencio T. Manglona, a former mayor of Rota, has been memorialized with a park in his name.

With the signing of Senate Local Bill 18-3 by acting governor Jude Hofschneider on Friday, Anyuta Island on Rota is now the "Mayor Prudencio Taisacan Manglona Harbor Island Park." Anyuta Island is a small island near the Tweksberry Beach Park in Songsong Village, Rota.

The bill memorializes Manglona's nearly 40 years of public service. He was Rota mayor for 16 years between 1978 and 1994.

With the bill signed, a plate with the date "May 27, 1934" will be permanently set into a concrete pedestal to be placed at the island's main entrance facing east.

A commemorative resolution was passed earlier this year honoring the mayor as a "compassionate husband, a loving father, a generous family man, a gentleman, a philanthropist, and a Chamorro citizen, who dedicated so much of invaluable time… to the call of public service."

Manglona is known for his work in modernizing the Rota Health Center, the Rota International Airport and Seaport, and the Rota power plant, as well as in opening Rota High School and Rota's Northern Marianas College campus, among other achievements.

"Tun Dencho," as Manglona was called, served in the Rota Municipal Council from 1958 to 1962, the Marianas Islands District Legislature from 1964 to 1966, and was a "founding father" of the CNMI Constitution as a delegate to the First Constitutional Convention in 1975.

Updated version of 9th Circuit Practice Guide now available

SAN FRANCISCO – An updated version of *The Appellate Lawyer Representatives' Ninth Circuit Practice Guide*, which explains the workings of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, is now available. The electronic document may viewed or downloaded from the court's website, http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/AppellatePracticeGuide.

Originally released in October 2013, the guide provides a broad overview of the appellate process and detailed information about procedures, including sections on motions practice, emergency proceedings, brief drafting, oral argument, the post-decisional process, habeas corpus matters, and checklists for drafting and filing motions and briefs.

The updated version now addresses writs, en banc petitions and procedures, and amicus briefs, and has been revised to reflect changes in rules and practice.

The guide was prepared by the Ninth Circuit's Appellate Lawyer Representatives, a group of experienced practitioners who advise the court on procedural and other matters. Although not an official court document, the publication was developed in close consultation with court staff.

While intended for lawyers, the guide may also assist journalists, students and educators, pro se litigants and others interested in the workings of the nation's largest appellate court.

The guide is considered a work in progress and the authors welcome feedback. Comments and suggestions should be emailed to ALRPracticeguide@ca9.uscourts.gov. ***(PR)***

US protects 20 species of coral as threatened

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. government is protecting 20 types of colorful coral by putting them on the list of threatened species, partly because of climate change.

As with the polar bear, much of the threat to the coral species is because of future expected problems due to global warming, said David Bernhart, an endangered-species official at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These coral species are already being hurt by climate change "but not to the point that they are endangered yet," he said.

Climate change is making the oceans warmer, more acidic and helping with coral diseases like bleaching—and those "are the major threats" explaining why the species were put on the threatened list, Bernhart said in a Wednesday conference call.

Other threats include overfishing, runoff from the land, and some coastal construction, but those are lesser, Bernhart said.

Five species can be found off the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts of Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. They include pillar coral, rough cactus coral and three species of star coral. The other 15 are in the Pacific Ocean area near Guam and American Samoa, but not Hawaii.

The agency looked at listing 66 species, but Wednesday listed only 20 for various reasons. All are called threatened, not endangered. Two coral species were already listed.

Coral reefs, which are in trouble worldwide, are important fish habitats.

The agency did not create any new rules yet that would prevent coral from being harvested or damaged.

"There is a growing body of expert scientists talking about a risk of mass extinction in the sea and on land," said Elliott Norse, founder and chief scientist of the Marine Conservation Institute of Seattle. Coral "are organisms on the front line of anything that humans do."

"I hope this wakes people up, and we don't have to lose more coral," Norse said.

Governor Eloy S. Inos

Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider

Welcome Back!

We would like to take this moment to welcome all students, teachers and administrators, from both public and private schools to a brand new academic year. It is now, where after a long and relaxing summer, we go back to the hallways and classrooms, meeting new friends and learning new things along the way.

Many of you have both feelings of anxiety and excitement as you look at the next several months that await you; it can be a very uneasy feeling. But we hope that throughout the next 180 days, each of you, both educator and pupil will make the best of the time you will have together.

We put our trust in **you the teachers**, to think outside the box and develop lesson plans which will enlighten our youth and bring them together in both research and engagement. We also put our trust in **you the students**, to set your minds to continue to excel, which in turn will make you, your parents, and our islands proud of your accomplishments.

May this be a year full of learning, growth, achievement, and wonderful experiences for all of you. We wish you all the best in School Year 2014 – 2015.

ELOY S. INOS

JUDE U. HOFSCHNEIDER

Garapan storm drains tagged to warn vs polluting beach waters

Storm drains along Paseo de Marianas and the Garapan area have now been marked with "Do not dump" tags as part a greater interagency effort led by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to prevent dumping of waste into the storm drains by people and businesses in the area.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality recently completed a storm drain marking and mural painting project with partners such as PDM Promoters and the Zoning Office—among others—to help prevent dumping of waste in the drains of the Garapan area.
DENNIS B. CHAN

According to BECQ watershed coordinator Kaitlin Mattos, any rain that falls between Garapan and Mt. Tapochao eventually go into the marked storm drains and then out into the ocean.

With the tags, she said, BECQ is trying to tell people not to throw their cigarette butts or used cooking oil in the drains, for example, and not to connect their sewer pipelines into the storm drains.

"You can see if you go up to Pau Pau or Wing Beach you'll see coral reefs almost right away," she said, comparing those beaches to Garapan where you mostly see sand, sea-grass, and algae. She blamed this on the runoff as well as pollution in the waters.

According to her, sediment that comes down from constructions sites and unpaved roads into the storm drains eventually "settles like a blanket" over the corals and keeps out the sunlight that corals need to grow and thrive.

"When you put too much nutrients [in the waters] it makes more algae grow than coral," Mattos said.

She said that businesses that connect their sewer lines to the storm drains not only cause problems for the ecosystem but also risk the tourists and many small children and people out on the beaches every day.

Partners in the project include PDM Promoters, who help clean the area, and the Zoning Office, which help enforce compliance.

The Department of Public Works is responsible for cleaning the storm drains, while the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. helps identify and fix broken sewer lines that add to the pollution in the area.

Mattos said that customers who dispose of their toilet water into the storm drains instead of the sewerline may be reported to CUC .

She said they are trying to get the Marianas Visitors Authority on board as it has a "big influence on the businesses and tourists" in Garapan.

Yubert Alepuyo, zoning enforcement officer, who helped tag the drainages with his coworker, Paul Lisua, said there are over 150 drainages in the Garapan area.

He said he is glad to represent his office in the water pollution prevention effort. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

TONGA

From Page 1

emerging new industry.

Tonga, like Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and Solomon Islands, has already received significant commercial interest in the seabed mineral potential within its national seas. Companies are currently conducting exploratory activities to learn more about Tonga's "seafloor massive sulphide" deposits. These chimney-like structures, formed by hydrothermal activity at the seafloor thousands of meters below sea level, are being touted as a new source for metals in global demand (such as copper, zinc, gold and silver)—and, if mined, would bring a new source of revenue for Tonga. The industry is, however, an untested one: deep-sea mining has not yet occurred anywhere in the world; its viability and environmental impact are yet to be determined.

Now, in Tonga, before any seabed mining can start, the requirements of the Seabed Minerals Act must be followed. This includes a stringent vetting process by government of any new project proposals, and public consultation if mining is proposed. Environmental impact assessment and ongoing monitoring are legal requirements, and government is given enforcement powers in order to maintain compliance with required performance standards. The Act also highlights the importance placed by Tonga on the protection and preservation of the marine environment, recognizing the need to balance economic development for the people of Tonga against conservation of the biodiversity of the oceans.

Taaniela Kula, Deputy Secretary for Natural Resources and the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project point man in Tonga, thanked a wide range of stakeholders this week for their involvement in the law's development, which began in 2012, including government colleagues and partners in the private sector and civil society, with special thanks to the EU and SPC for the Deep Sea Mineral Project's assistance preparing an initial draft of the Act.

EU Ambassador to the Pacific Andrew Jacobs, upon receiving a copy of the Seabed Minerals Act 2014, said: "I wish to congratulate Tonga for this bold move, which will allow the kingdom to effectively regulate and fully participate in deep-sea mineral activities. The EU is pleased to have been able to contribute to this world premiere. Tonga is now equipped with a set of tools and regulations that will allow it to maximize the benefits of deep sea mining for its population."

Professor Mike Petterson, director of SPC's Applied Geoscience and Technology Division, which hosts the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project, added his congratulations to Tonga: "The Seabed Minerals Act 2014 is not only a world first, but also a world best! With this new law, Tonga establishes a robust and transparent regulatory system, which prioritizes good governance of natural resources and environmental management in line with international best practice. With provisions that set a stable and predictable regime, with requirements for the precautionary approach, public consultation and 'free, prior and informed consent,' and with the creation of a ring-fenced sovereign wealth fund for seabed mining revenue, through this Act, Tonga has struck a good balance between incentivizing the investment that will bring Tonga new income, while protecting the long-term interests of the people of the kingdom and the health of the oceans."

Tonga's legislation follows closely the SPC-EU Deep Sea Mineral Project's "Regional Legislative and Regulatory Framework" launched by Pacific Island Forum Leaders in 2012, and endorsed by all 15 Pacific members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. Several other Pacific Island countries also have seabed mineral bills under development, with SPC and EU support, and the Deep Sea Minerals Project is supporting a wide range of other deep-sea minerals "good governance" activities across the region, in response to the requests and individual needs of countries.

Tonga will now continue to implement the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project, with awareness-raising programs, and the development of further regulations. ***(SPC)***

BUDGET

From Page 1

Hocog, meanwhile, appointed as Senate conferees Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

The House rejected on Thursday a Senate-amended budget bill over what they deem as an unconstitutional provision, salary increases, and advance quarterly allotments, among other things. This automatically led to the formation of a bicameral conference committee to hash out the differences between the two budget versions.

Hocog recognizes that his floor amendment to the budget bill was one of the main reasons for the House's rejection of the Senate-amended budget bill.

"But I want to know from the counsels what makes that provision unconstitutional," Hocog said.

House members deem "unconstitutional" a Senate-added provision allowing a waiver on any electronic gaming licensing fees, machine fees, and CNMI taxes up to $400,000 assessed against private firm Bridge Capital LLC or its assigns for fiscal year 2015 and offset it with the total amount of $400,000 that the CNMI government owes Bridge Capital for unpaid La Fiesta leases.

Once the bill becomes law in its current form, it also allows Bridge Capital to "sell or transfer" these credit amounts to any entity that has an electronic gaming license on Saipan.

Hocog said he does not see any reason why such a provision won't be a win-win for the government and Bridge Capital, which he said is interested in operating electronic gaming machines on Saipan.

"Bridge Capital has an upcoming business. If they have 100 electronic gaming machines, for example, that's already $250,000 in one year in license alone. That will also result in business gross revenue tax and multiplier effects. The government will be able to repay its debt to Bridge Capital and then will generate revenue from Bridge Capital operations," he said.

The senator said the government should not ignore its debts that start only with hundreds of thousands of dollars but later balloon to millions because of non-payment while it is still manageable.

"And how long will the government lease the property?" he asked. Rather than continue accumulating a $200,000-a-year unpaid lease for the La Fiesta Mall, Hocog said the government can just offset at least $400,000 of that debt.

The senator said he has faith in the conferees that this and other issues of concerns in the latest version of the budget will be resolved.

Hocog said he will be asking Taimanao to meet with the chairman of the House conferees as early as today, followed by a meeting of all the conferees.

If there is no new budget law in place by the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1, the government would have to shut down again, like in 2010 when the Senate and House couldn't compromise on the spending package.

Besides the debt offset provision, there is also a House concern about salary increases of up to more than $15,000, including those for the Finance secretary and directors.

Some lawmakers are also crying foul over cuts in House and Senate members' operational funds by some $7,000 to be able to give Tinian close to $400,000. House members also do not agree with the Senate's provision allowing a three-month advance allotment.

Unlike in previous budget seasons, this year's differences in the budget are not on the amount of appropriations for agencies and departments but more on "administrative" provisions and policies.

BUSINESSES

From Page 1

had to withdraw these contributions last year.

Alice Legaspi, spokesperson for National Office Supply, said they're glad to see a spike in customer traffic during this back-to-school shopping season, thanks to the release of retirement and DB interest payments.

"People have more buying power. People have additional resources, on top of their regular salary. And that's added money circulating in our economy. We are happy to be a part of the added business brought by these payments. We hope this will continue as the economy improves," Legaspi said, adding that National Office Supply offers a 30-percent discount on back-to-school and office supplies until Sept. 14.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said they released over $10 million in DB interest payments for some 1,730 individuals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on Friday.

This was on top of some $11.9 million in retirees' 25-percent pension payments released two weeks ago.

"I look forward to increased business gross revenue next month or so," Larson said, owing to the released funds now circulating locally.

Jay Santos, general manager for Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Triple J Truckload Store that buys directly from Kmart Guam, said yesterday they have seen sales increases for big-ticket items such as refrigerators and television sets the past two weekends, owing to the release of retirement and DB interest payments.

"It's nice to see people spending their money on things they need at home," Santos said. He added that based on information from other businesses, even car sales have been on the upswing.

Joeten Ace Hardware in Susupe is also feeling the positive impact of recent government payments to retirees and current government employees.

"Those payments really helped. We have seen increased sales of appliances and outdoor equipment such as bush cutters and lawn mowers," Joeten Ace Hardware supervisor Gloria Pagarao said.

A representative of 99 Cents Supermarket in Garapan said yesterday that they have been seeing a busier than normal grocery shopping in the past two weeks.

"We believe it's because of the retirement checks. We're always busy but now we've been busier," she said, adding that some store shelves have been running low on supplies including those containing "snack" foods.

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider, meanwhile, said he hopes that those who received their nine-month 25-percent pension and DB interest payments would spend their money "wisely" or put them in savings or some other forms of pension plan for future use.

Restaurants and clothing stores also got busier than usual during the past two weekends right after the release of the two types of checks. Some poker parlors' parking spaces were also filled with cars.

But even without the release of DB interest and pension payments, some businesses see good sales this time of the year because public schools open this week.

"We're here to buy school supplies for seven kids—school bags, ball pens, almost everything," said Takie Muty, 47.

She said she used her Social Security Income check for their back-to-school shopping, including those for her children attending Kagman High School, Tanapag Elementary School, and GTC Elementary School.

Rolando Faustino, 37, said they used gift certificates totaling $50 to buy school supplies at National Office Supply yesterday, for his two school-aged children—a second grader and one in kindergarten.

"Good thing we have these gift certificates. We got to buy school supplies for our children," he added.

9th Circuit judges serve as main speakers at District Conference

BILL BEZZANT
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex A. Kozinski, center, holds a conversation with Bar Association members, with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, left, and CNMI Bar Association treasurer Deborah Fisher serving as moderators.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex A. Kozinski, Senior Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder, and Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith were the main speakers at the 20th Annual District Conference held at Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall on Saturday.

Kozinski had a conversation with CNMI Bar members, Schroeder talked about what she has learned about the Pacific that Washington should, while Smith focused on standards of review.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and CNMI Bar Association treasurer Deborah Fisher served as moderators during the Bar conversation with Kozinski.

In a later interview, Manglona said the District Court gathers members of the CNMI Bar every year to bring continuing legal education for the attorneys.

Manglona said they try to bring speakers who are well-versed in areas of federal law so that members of the Bar are able to maintain their legal training.

"This year we're very fortunate to have three federal judges come here to Saipan," she said.

Manglona said the visit of Kozinski, Schroeder, and Smith is part of the extension of the Ninth Circuit's oral arguments in Guam.

Manglona said the conference was made possible in conjunction with the Districts of Guam and NMI, and the Guam and CNMI Bar Associations.

Kozinski's last visit to Saipan was five years ago. He recalled that his first visit was in 1989 when he sat on a territorial court with Judge Alex R. Munson.

Compared to his first visit, Kozinski said it seems that Saipan has gotten more lively, with a lot of commerce and a lot of tourists.

"So beautiful," Kozinski said.

If he has any advice for lawyers, it is for them to be brief in their oral and written pleadings.

Kozinski averred that he is suspicious of government so when he gets cases involving the government, he exercises a lot of caution.

During his presentation, Kozinski pointed out that it is important for prosecutors to perform in an honorable way.

"If they commit a mistake, acknowledge it," he said, adding that justice is not just about winning cases.

When asked about his dissenting opinions, Kozinski said he may have lost the battle but it is his hope that it will be corrected in future cases.

In writing pleadings, he said it should be like someone is having a conversation with another person. He said most lawyers misuse facts, not realizing that not everything on the record is relevant. Lawyers should tell what is the heart of the case and put the facts together similar to just having a conversation, he said.

As for lawyers who write chronologically, "nobody likes your story," Kozinski said.

In an interview about her topic, Schroeder said that Washington doesn't pay a lot of attention to what happens west of the Mississippi. She related that when she was chief judge of the Ninth Circuit, she frequently had to talk to folks in Washington and the bureaucracy, and to Senate and House staff. She said these people have never been in Arizona and across the Pacific so they need a lot of education.

Schroeder cited the law that extended federal immigration into the Commonwealth. That law, she said, was passed by people who've never been in the Commonwealth and have never seen the problem "so they didn't really understand what they were doing."

Schroeder's advice to the CNMI lawyers is to travel to Washington, D.C., frequently and to ask people in Washington, D.C., to come and visit the CNMI and get them some educational programs on how to make things better here.

Smith, who talked about standards of review with CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona, said it's his first time to visit Saipan.

"Wonderful except for the humidity. A fat kid doesn't like humidity but otherwise I love it. It's wonderful," Smith later said in an interview.

Smith said that he and Justice Manglona, who was on the panel with him, advised lawyers that they should use the standards in determining what issues to appeal, in determining how to write their briefs for their appeal, and in arguing their appeal.

"If they look at the standards then it is easier to understand how to make the arguments, what to appeal, and what to say to use by their own appeal," Smith said.

Attorney Claire Kelleher-Smith served as moderator in that discussion.

At the conference, CNMI Bar Association president Maya B. Kara and attorneys Bruce Mailman and Jane Mack talked about "CW Minefields: Ethical and Practical Considerations."

Attorney Daniel B. Garrie talked about big data, privacy, and information security.

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CNMI Bar will evaluate Manglona, Naraja, Govendo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Bar Association will evaluate the performances of CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, and Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who are all seeking retention on the bench this November election.

In an interview over the weekend, CNMI Bar Association president Maya Kara said they are going to conduct the evaluation very soon, before the November election.

Kara said that Bar Association administrative director Suzanne Steffy will be sending the evaluation form to Bar members.

Kara said Bar members who practice in front of the judges are in the best position to evaluate the performances of judges and justices.

"The general public usually does not come in contact with judges, and judges deserve to be evaluated and voted on on their performance rather than who they know or who they're friends with," she said.

Manglona, Naraja, and Govendo have all submitted their intention to seek retention election this November.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero confirmed that Manglona will be placed on the ballot as a candidate for retention as associate justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

Naraja and Govendo will also be placed on the ballot for the retention as presiding judge and associate judge respectively of the Superior Court, Guerrero said.

Under a constitutional amendment, the question of whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

Manglona and then-Superior Court Associate Judge and now U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona are the first to obtain an impressive "good" rating among the magistrates who underwent performance evaluation by the CNMI Bar Association.

"Good" means the magistrates often exceed minimum standards of performance. Both Naraja and Govendo got the upper end of "acceptable" rating during the 2007 Bar evaluation.

Naraja is seeking a third term as presiding judge.

Then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio appointed then-Superior Court associate judge Manglona as associate justice in April 2000. He was sworn in to the three-seat CNMI Supreme Court in June 2000.

Then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio appointed Naraja in November 2001 as associate judge. Two years later, then-governor Juan N. Babauta appointed Naraja as presiding judge.

Babauta appointed Govendo as associate judge in 2003.

In November 2007, voters overwhelmingly voted for the retention of John Manglona, Naraja, and Govendo.

With their retention in 2007, Manglona's term that expired in 2008 was extended eight more years, while judges Naraja and Govendo, whose terms expired in 2009, got an additional six years.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL-SHOPPING HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Children and adults crowd the National Office Supply along Beach Road yesterday, a Labor Day holiday, for back-to-school shopping.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

International Festival of Cultures kicks off Sept. 13

The Marianas Visitors Authority kicks off its newest annual signature event, the International Festival of Cultures, on Sept. 13, 2014. Organized in conjunction with the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture and PDM Promoters, the festival will be staged for four consecutive Saturdays—Sept. 13, 20, and 27 and Oct. 4, 2014—at the Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan. A parade of cultures will be held on Oct. 4 at 5:30pm in Garapan from the Carolinian Affairs Office north along Beach Road to American Memorial Park, ending at Coral Tree Avenue. Booths will open at 5pm. Performances begin at 6pm and the event will run until 11pm. Admission is free. ***(MVA)***

Chamber membership meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's September general membership meeting will be held tomorrow, Sept. 3, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, with the meeting starting at noon. The main guest speaker is Alan Fletcher, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. His presentation will include the Integrated Resource Plan and the soon-to-be-in-place Incentive Rate for those who self-generate. Also speaking is Christopher Tenorio regarding the PSS Cooperative Education Program. Luncheon cost for SCC members is $20. Non-member cost is $30. ***(SCC)***

Navy training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 5, from 7pm to 11:59pm. The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from 5am on Sept. 8 to 11:59pm on Oct. 6.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and date indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

Japan Consulate offers class on Japanese culture

The Consular Office of Japan on Saipan will host a class about the Japanese culture on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, from 3pm to 4:30pm, at the conference room of the Consular Office of Japan, second floor of the Bank of Hawaii Building, Mariana Heights Business Park, Puerto Rico, Saipan. The lecture will focus on the nature of Japanese culture, *haiku* (Japanese poetry), and Japan video topics. Any interested person is requested to register by Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014, by contacting the Saipan Secretariat at cojsf@ag.mofa.go.jp. The class will be limited to 10 people and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. ***(PR)***

Family grief support meeting on Sept. 4

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday Sept. 4, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. For more information, call Donna Krum at 783-0755 or e-mail donnakrum@gmail.com or Jill Derickson, at jilld@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Free workshop on project planning and development

The Administration for Native Americans Pacific Region Training and Technical Assistance Center will be conducting a Project Planning & Development Training workshop at Northern Marianas College from Sept. 8 to 10, from 9am to 4pm, in room N-5. The training will be held on Saipan but will be broadcast through videoconference live to Rota (NMC campus) and Tinian (NMC campus). The three-day workshop is free, and you can register on the first day (Sept. 8, at NMC, Room N-5) or register online at www.anapacificbasin.org. ***(PR)***

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0338**
-v-	:	
RAMON P. AGULTO and DALIA R. AGULTO, Defendants	:	

SEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 001 G 32, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office , Saipan, and also on February 16, 1989, ad Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of August, 2014:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0022**
-v-	:	
The Estate of MARGARITA ADA GAZA, and DANILO N. GAZA, Defendants	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 21, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 270, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of August, 2014:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
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TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	]	CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0487
-v-	]	**FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**
The Estate of MARIANO L. ALDAN and ELSA B. ALDAN, Deceased, Defendants.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 23, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1272, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 858 square meters, more or less as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 24, dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 96-2566, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of August, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVCES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,	]	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0458
-v-	]	**FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**
DONALD C. CAMACHO, Defendant.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of August, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVCIES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,	]	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0131
-v-	]	**THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**
LUCIA BORJA PALACIOS, Defendant.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 218-2-5, situated in As Teo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 53,203.65 meters north and 66,755.91 meters east of the Mariana Islands district coordinate system of 1956.

Thence N 13° 35' 00", 13.18 meters to Corner 3;
Thence S 80° 13' 00" E 65.95 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 09° 47' 00" E, 28.85 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N 80° 13' 00" W, 66.53 meters to Corner 1; the point of beginning.

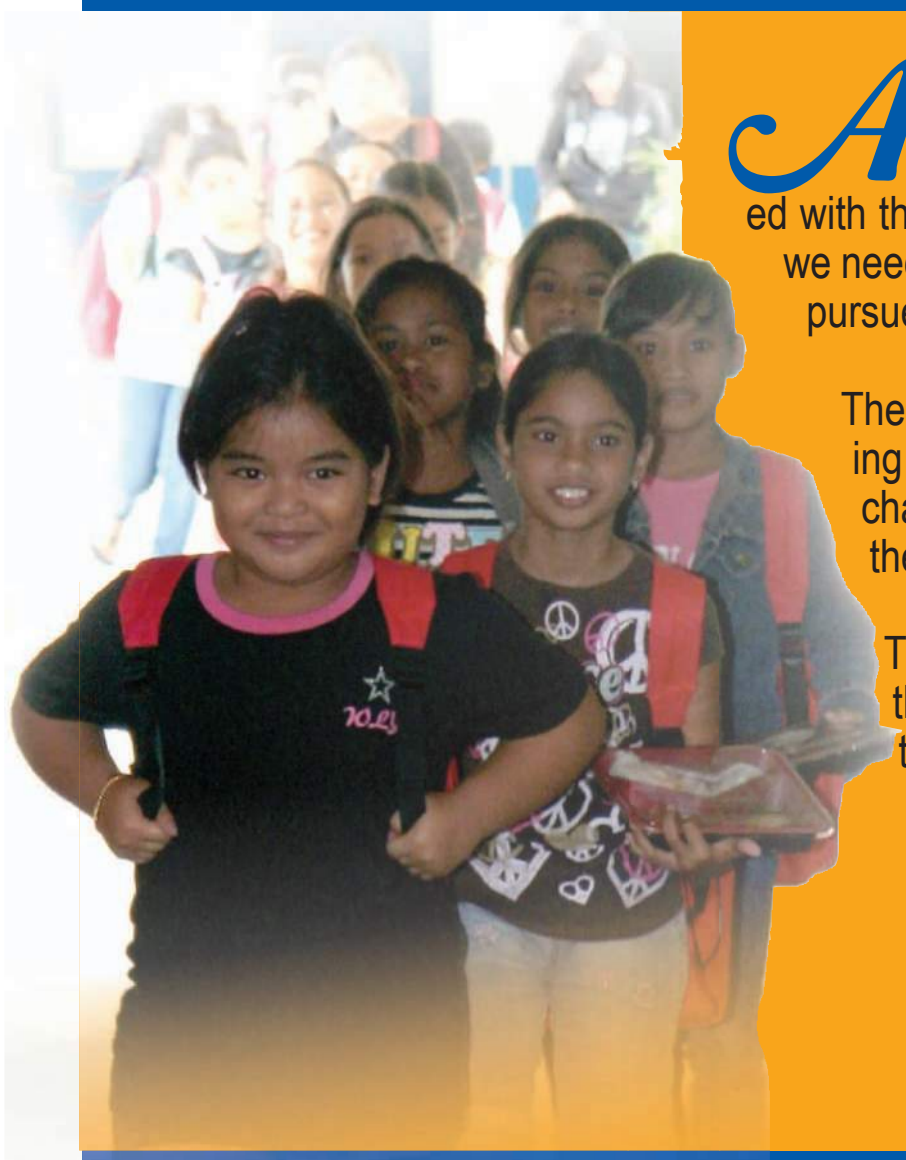
Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of August, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

The State Board of Education
CNMI Public School System
through the
Office of the Commissioner of Education



As we open School-Year 2014-2015, we are once again presented with the opportunity to create lifelong learners and why we serve, why we need to teach our students lifelong skills, and why we inspire them to pursue a dream.

The new school year brings about new focus—a strong focus of moving forward. It is how taking that leap that can result in amazing change in our students ability to learn and strive for excellence, and their desire to grow with our schools, private and public.

The State Board of Education, the Public School System through the Office of the Commissioner of Education and her leadership team and our public school principals and vice principals would like to extend our warmest greetings and welcome to all of our students, faculty and staff as we open the new school year.

Let us continue to carry on our commitment to strive for success and let us work together to provide the high-quality educational experience and opportunities for the children of this commonwealth.

Welcome Back to School

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PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
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ESFDB marks 25th year; unveils new mascot

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja kicked off school year 2014-2015 on Aug. 15, in time for the school's celebration of its 25th year of operation and the official unveiling of its new school mascot, "Bulls."

"We're excited to celebrate a new school year with our students and families, and welcome the new students and families joining us," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig. "ESFDB provides an individualized approach to education that helps students thrive and create meaningful academic, faith formation, and extracurricular experiences, and we can't wait to see what this year holds for our Catholic community school."

"This year also marks the school's 25th anniversary," said Atalig. "We are proud of the school's legacy and we thank our founding father Monsignor Louis Antonelli for a Catholic school to materialize in the Luta community."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja, together with the 7th and 8th grade students, get ready for Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's school year 2014-2015.

Atalig, administrator/principal and kindergarten adviser, leads ESFDB's dedicated team of administrative, faculty, and staff. She brings 20-plus years of experience in the Public School System classroom and management that has been invaluable to ESFDB. Atalig used to be principal of Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota.

"Our core of dedicated teachers are back to continue their success in providing the best education at our great and only Catholic school," said Atalig.

The preschool program is headed by Lea D. Maratita and she also serves as the school's business office manager. Maratita is assisted by teacher aide Ann Marie Toves. The newest ESFDB family member, Ivylin Taitano Hocog, is also assisting Maratita. Hocog is an alumni of ESFDB.

Leading the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade is Florinda M. Chavez. She is the most seasoned faculty in the ESFDB team.

Like Chavez, Mary Rose S. Lucero is another seasoned faculty, and she will be this year's 4th, 5th, and 6th grade adviser.

Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja, administrator and pastor of San Francisco de Borja Church, Rota, will be handling the 7th and 8th grade Religion classes as well as the 4th to 8th grade math.

Rounding out the team is ESFDB board president and 7th and 8th grade adviser Edward Maratita Jr., who is also tasked to strengthen the athletic program to complement the school's academic strength.

To mark its 25 years in operation, ESFDB will be having various activities in celebration of its silver anniversary. The theme for the anniversary is "ESFDB Legacy, 1989 and Beyond."

ESFDB was founded in 1989 and serves a diverse Luta community.

"For 25 years, the school had been educating the children of a close diverse community, contributing to successful and wonderful memories in the process," said ESFDB board president Edward Maratita, Jr. "We thank each of the families that send their children to a Catholic education and to the families who contributed and supported the school one way or the other, they haven't just captured our hearts, they capture the spirit of San Francisco de Borja."

The Silver Anniversary Committee is headed by board member Lorenzo Barcinas and 1997 alumni Jackie Gumataotao Manglona. ***(ESFDB)***

Schroeder: DC does not understand need to build federal court in CNMI

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Senior Judge Mary M. Schroeder said that people in Washington, D.C., don't understand the need for the U.S. District Court for the NMI to have its own building on Saipan.

"I think it's a shame that the judges have to go through each other's courtrooms and that there isn't sufficient security," said Schroeder in an interview Saturday shortly after the completion of the 20th Annual District Conference at Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall.

Schroeder said she has long been a fighter for getting decent facilities for the federal court on Saipan.

"There should be a good facility here to house the federal judges, particularly because the issues that they have to handle are quite sensitive," she said.

Schroeder said that having the facility built is going to be very expensive and that right now it's hard to get Congress to do anything, much less spend money a long way away.

"It's another example of people in Washington not understanding. They don't understand why it's expensive here. They don't understand the distances. They don't understand the need for security," she said.

Schroeder said she recommended a new facility on Saipan when she was still the Circuit Chief Judge.

The District Court rents spaces at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Hatha Adai Yoga to hold grand opening Friday

Hatha Adai Yoga announces the opening of their yoga studio. The grand opening will be held Friday, Sept. 5, where a free relaxing yoga class will be offered, followed by free wine, non-alcoholic drinks, and nibbles to celebrate the event; kickoff is at 5:30pm.

Hatha Adai Yoga is owned and operated by Hatha Adai Yoga instructors Kate Campbell, Nicole Schafer, and Kelli McDoulett. Trained and certified in India, the heart of yoga's origins, the instructors bring their own styles to the wonderful mental, emotional, and physical benefits of this ancient practice.

Hatha yoga created the framework for all other yoga practices as well as the lifestyle that helps bring health and balance to the body.

The instructors are offering a variety of classes such as Vinyasa, a typical practice with flowing movements, to Yin, a restorative practice with deep muscle stretches, to Power, a heart pumping style that builds strength and cardio. Introductory classes are also offered for those looking to learn the basic cues and poses to assist them in other classes.

The variety of classes allows students to find a style that best fits their needs, whether it be improving flexibility, quiet meditation, enhancing strength and energy, or weight loss all under one roof.

For the grand opening Hatha Adai Yoga will be offering a relaxing 30-minute class to focus the mind and calm the body (exactly what is needed after a long workweek).

Transcends, LLC will be providing the organic viticulture and Fair Trade wines of Santa Digna Chardonnay and a Santa Digna Cabernet Sauvignon for the celebratory drinks following the yoga practice. Nibbles will be provided by Hatha Adai Yoga.

Hatha Adai Yoga is based in Garapan off of Middle Road in the three-story white building with yellow trim (No. 103) next to Booya's restaurant across from the Mobil gas station.

For more information about Hatha Adai Yoga or its grand opening, contact public relations officer Nicole Schafer at (670) 989-7810. Further information about Hatha Adai Yoga can be found at https://HathaAdaiYoga.com or on the Hatha Adai Yoga Facebook page. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to our queen & awesome grandmother Antonia Aguon Santos! May you be continuously blessed and in good health. Thank you for your never ending love and opening your golden heart to us! We love you beyond the moon and galaxy! Love, Eric, Don & all your grandchildren!

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 2, 2013

Plan to shrink Legislature draws support from Chamber

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) plan to craft an initiative reducing the number of lawmakers from 29 to 18 has gotten support from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which has long advocated for a leaner Legislature. Chamber president Alex Sablan and board of directors said during the weekend that they unanimously support the drafting of a legislative initiative that will pose the question of a reduced number of lawmakers before CNMI voters. Leon Guerrero said on Sunday that he may pre-file the initiative this week. But he said the number of lawmakers proposed may still change. "The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has repeatedly called for government to reduce its operations when there would be no loss of services provided to the people of the Commonwealth. It's nothing any business in the CNMI hasn't already done. The plan being proposed by Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero, a member of the ad hoc committee to reduce government expenditures, is exactly what the private sector believes is the right thing to do," Sablan said in a statement.

Economic pain measurement for Chamorros, Carolinians

The Chamorro radio talk show Marianas Agupa released Thursday its scale/measurement of economic pain model, called "Mididan Puti" in the Chamorro language, for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This scale/measurement of economic pain is the product of many people on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota who have been actively participating in the talk show since 2009 on Magic 100.3 FM from 9am to 11am on Saturdays. According to Glenn H. Manglona, host of Marianas Agupa, the "Mididan Puti" was coined by Thomas D. Mendiola, commonly known as "Guelu Fadang," who is the radio correspondent from Rota. During his weekly radio reports from Rota since 2009, he discussed issues of economic matters that directly affect the people of Rota, including not being able to buy the most essential things in life for survival like rice, milk, and medicine because of air and ocean transportation delays and the cost of utilities and gasoline.

September 2, 2003

Scholarship available for graduating HS students

Graduating students from CNMI high schools are encouraged to apply for financial aid from the recently established nonprofit organization Colonel Joel A. Carroll, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, which Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio helped form. This memorial fund was established on July 1, 2003, in honor of Col. Joel A. Carroll, Jr., Tenorio's friend and sponsor during his high school years in Guam. For school year 2003-2004, a one-time $500.00 scholarship will be awarded to 10 college-bound freshmen who have graduated from high school in the CNMI; have been accepted by a university or college; and are U.S. citizens or nationals. Preference will be given to those who are pursuing studies in health, science, or engineering. Interested students must complete and submit an application form by Sept. 30, 2003 for the 2003-2004 academic year. Review of application and notice of awards will be made in early October 2003.

Saipan dialysis center in jeopardy

The much-awaited construction of the supposed $10 million Saipan dialysis center may not be done on time due to a faulty design and the lack of money to rectify the problem, according to House committee on health and welfare chair Rep. Benjamin Seman. "We discovered about it only recently, and it's upsetting because we've all expected that everything is in order," said Seman, who noted that the Legislature already reprogrammed the remaining funds from the project knowing that the contract award reached only $5.4 million. "The Legislature was never informed that the design was problematic so it went ahead to move the money for other priority projects," said Seman, who added that his committee is already set to meet with DPH and DPW officials to discuss the issue. "We'll be meeting with them. In particular, I want the DPW to justify to us why it was not brought to our attention, and why they proceeded with the design when the DPH never agreed to it," said the lawmaker. Based on his meeting with DPH last week, he said he learned that "it was a bad design to begin with."

CNMI GOVT LABOR DAY
Employees of the Department of Public Lands celebrate their third place win in the Tug-of-War Competition during Sunday's Labor Day celebration at the Civic Center in Susupe. Awesome job everyone! Keep on keepin' on.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PHS to continue helping NMI's environment, utility agencies

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. recently learned from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) that the U.S Environmental Protection Agency will continue supporting the assignment of Public Health Service Officers to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant-funded positions in the CNMI.

In a letter to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher, Sablan said that no congressional action is required to continue the assignment of Public Health Service Officers and their work in the Pacific Islands.

The letter was addressed to CUC after the utilities agency sent an email to Sablan on June 2, 2014, seeking resolution on the matter.

According to Sablan, the issue of cutting back on Public Health Officers in the CNMI has dated back to 2011.

Sablan wrote EPA on June 17, 2014, to inquire about the matter and EPA responded to Sablan on Aug. 18, with a letter from Department of Health and Human Services acting Surgeon General Boris D. Lushniak and EPA's Region 9 regional administrator Jared Blumenfeld, who both assured Sablan that there was no statutory impediment to these assignments.

"Our agencies have worked closely together to reach this conclusion because we recognize and value the substantial environmental and human health benefits to which the PHS Officers have contributed in American Samoa, Guam and CNMI," EPA told Sablan.

PHS officers serving environmental agencies in the Pacific and CUC have dropped from eight to just two, Capt. Derek Chambers and Brian Bearden. They will continue helping the agencies they are currently working with and the possibility of an additional help in the future.

BankGuam Holding declares Q3 dividends

BankGuam Holding Co. announced Friday that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share at its regular meeting on Monday, Aug. 25, 2014. The dividend will be paid on Sept. 30, 2014, to shareholders of record as of Sept. 15, 2014.

BankGuam Holding Co. president and board chair Lou A. Leon Guerrero stated, "The continuing strength and solid performance of Bank of Guam has allowed us to pay dividends to our shareholders, as we have every quarter since 1976." ***(BoG)***

Salvage operation begins on fishing vessel aground near Cocos Island

COCOS ISLAND, Guam—As of Aug. 27, 2014, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, vessel owner's representative, and U.S. Coast Guard Federal On-scene Coordinator reviewed the response and salvage plan and personnel have begun the process of removing the vessel from the reef.

The salvage process will involve cutting the vessel into pieces at its current location. Pieces will be removed from the site by barges designed to operate in shallow water. These barges are instrumental to the operation because the depth of water is too shallow for larger draft vessels to safely make it to the location. A channel has been marked for response vessels in order to keep them clear of environmentally sensitive areas during lower tides.

Guam EPA has worked closely with the vessel's representative and USCG FOSC to ensure that salvage operations do not endanger the environment. Strategies were put into place to mitigate environmental hazards, such as the transit channel and the plan to deal with any residual oil that may remain in the engine or auxiliary equipment onboard the vessel. Representatives for both the USCG FOSC and Guam EPA have continued their presence on-scene to monitor the progress of operations, ensure compliance with applicable local and federal laws, as well as the safety of personnel and the environment. The vessel owner's representative, Cabras Island Marine Services, has been a key player in the response. CIMS has acquired the necessary contract companies to provide personnel and equipment to respond, adjusted plans to meet the requirements outlined by both Guam EPA and USCG FOSC, and engaged community officials to advise them of operational milestones.

Many actions have taken place since the vessel went aground on July 30, 2014. Actions include the removal of the hazardous liquids and batteries from the vessel, site assessment to formulate salvage plan and develop strategies to mitigate environmental hazards, establishment of a safety zone to protect the public for dangers associated with the grounded vessel, and review of the response and salvage plan for safely removing the vessel from the reef.

Citizens are reminded that the Coast Guard Captain of the Port Guam has established a 400-yard safety zone around the grounded vessel. ***(USCG)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP14-DOC-143

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2014 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"CNMI DOC FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER AUGUST 19, 2014 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 05, 2014 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, TEKKEN STREET, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO COMMISSIONER RAMON C. MAFNAS VIA E-MAIL TO rjmafnas@gmail.com OR BY FAX TO (670) 664-9515 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW14-IFB-006

PRECINCT V VARIOUS ROADS PROJECT, SAIPAN, CNMI

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Precinct V Various Roads Project, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after August 26, 2014 at Departmnet of Public works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Deaprtment of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capital Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on September 12, 2014, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on September 18, 2014 to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.
The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-14-IFB-005". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 29, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 29, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 29, 2014 and must be received no later than October 8, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, October 9, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on September 29, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Two Hundred Ten (210) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of Five Hundred Dollars (US$500.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

US fighters in enemy ranks raise tough questions

The death last week of U.S. citizen Douglas McAuthur McCain while fighting for the Islamic State and the reported presence of more than 100 Americans in similar roles on the battlefield in Iraq and Syria raise prickly issues for the U.S. government and the public.

The first concern is the normal one for parents and friends of these Americans. They face a loss, from the person's absence or even death. They also may be perplexed why their loved one abandoned American society to fight alongside a foreign organization opposed to American values, if not to the United States itself.

Although this is troubling, the phenomenon of Americans enlisting as soldiers in foreign causes, both good and bad, is not new. Americans went off to fight in World War I before the United States entered that conflict in 1917. The famous Abraham Lincoln Brigade numbered 2,800 and fought against the fascists on the side of Republican Spain in the 1930s. Hundreds of American citizens are enlisted in the Israel Defense Forces at any given time. Two Americans died in the recent Gaza war.

It is, in principle, within the powers of the U.S. government to prohibit such activities, but it is not easy to do so without infringing on the fighters' personal liberties. Borders in these troubled areas are not sharply enforced in any case.

The most serious worry of loyal Americans over fellow citizens who are engaged in combat in the Middle East is that they subscribe to ideas and gain military skills that may be used against the United States and in favor of the organizations they supported overseas.

Spying on them more over there or back here may help to a degree, but it may just as likely intensify their alienation and stealth in planning, than neutralize them when they come home. It is not an easy problem to solve.

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Hotels wrongly ramp up extra fees, just like airlines

The airlines started it, this business of adding extra fees to travel, for baggage and the like. But hotels, The Associated Press reported this week, are signing on to this gouge-the-customer game. This year, hotels are going to take in over $2 billion in add-on fees, some of them covering things that guests likely wouldn't dream of seeing on a bill.

Should Congress step in? Most emphatically. Whatever happened to all those consumer advocates on Capitol Hill? Perhaps they're getting their rooms comped.

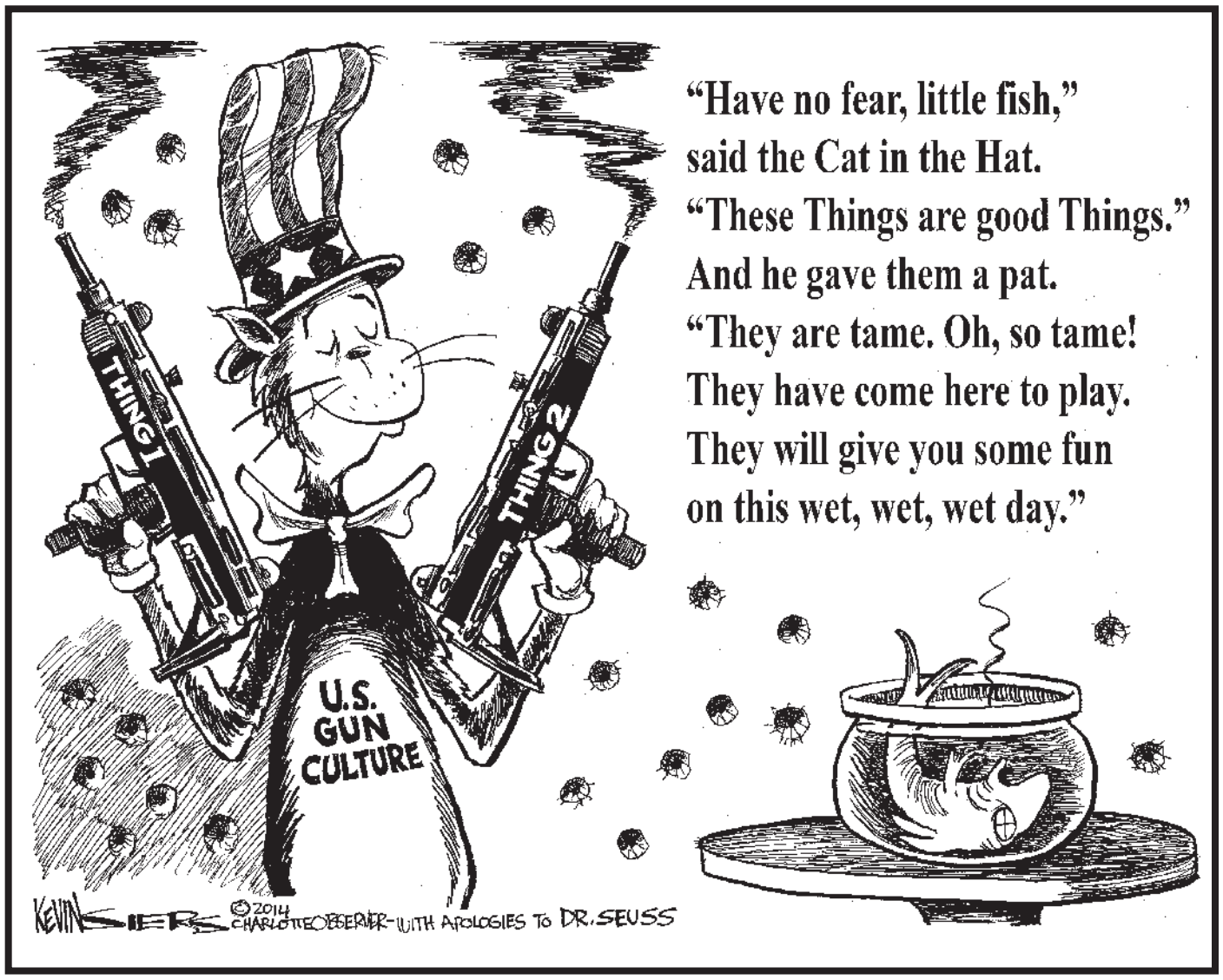
At the Liberty Hotel in Boston, a cold can of Coke from the minibar runs $5. That's outrageous, but not unheard of. But here's the kicker: There's an 18 percent "administrative fee" for a hotel worker to put another can of Coke in the minibar.

And at the Aria Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, it costs guests—now that's funny—a "personal use fee" of $25 a day if they put their own soda or water in the room minibar.

The last straw: Tips are no longer optional in many places. They're just added to the bill.

One professor at a New York hospitality school warns that hotel visitors need to be extra attentive to the fine print in whatever they sign when they check in. Not that it does much good. Like airlines, hotels have convenience going for them. Don't like that check-in and check-out fee? Fine, pal, head out in the driving

See HOTELS on Next Page



"Have no fear, little fish,"
said the Cat in the Hat.
"These Things are good Things."
And he gave them a pat.
"They are tame. Oh, so tame!
They have come here to play.
They will give you some fun
on this wet, wet, wet day."

50 years later, SNAP proves its continuing vitality

By JAMES WEILL
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

James Weill is president of the Food Research and Action Center, a leading advocacy organization working to end hunger in America through stronger public policies. Readers may send him email at info@frac.org.

A lot has happened in the 50 years since LBJ signed the Food Stamp Act of 1964 into law. We've elected eight presidents, watched our population grow and shift, gained knowledge about health and nutrition, enjoyed economic booms and survived recessions. Through it all, food stamps have been there, steadfastly providing better nutrition to hungry Americans.

Though the Food Stamp Act has been amended often since 1964, we celebrate it for taking a successful pilot program and giving it ongoing legislative authority to provide food-purchasing assistance to our nation's most vulnerable people. Today's incarnation of food stamps, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is older, wiser and more experienced than it was half a century ago. Like America, the program still has room for improvement, but it has adapted well to meet the ever-changing needs of our society.

From the beginning, SNAP—like other core programs that comprise America's social safety net such as Head Start, WIC (the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children), school meals, Medicare and Medicaid, and Social Security—has served a fundamental need for our nation's poor and vulnerable.

In 2012 alone, SNAP lifted more than four million Americans out of poverty, including 2.1 million children. The program is also proven to reduce food insecurity, which we now know can be devastating through all phases of a person's life. During pregnancy, food insecurity increases a baby's risk of low birth weight. It increases young children's risk of poor health, hospitalizations and developmental delays; and older children are more likely to have behavioral problems and low academic achievement. Food-insecure seniors are more apt to be in poor health and have poor nutrition status.

Clearly, SNAP is meeting a modern need, just as it has for five decades. Over the years, the program has retained and increased its value, in part because of its ability to adapt to our enhanced understanding of how to provide nutrition assistance in the most efficient and economically advantageous way.

For example, coupons were replaced with electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which led to less stigma, more program integrity and higher efficiency. The upshot of EBT and other program changes are record low error rates—down to levels that are the envy of other public and private programs.

SNAP has also proven itself nimble when it comes to a changing economy. Because the median wage for American workers has declined so substantially since the 1970s, many more working families need wages supplemented in order to afford enough food. In response, program shifts now allow low-income working families to participate more readily. SNAP also was hugely responsive to the recent recession.

While raising the minimum wage, sharing economic growth with all Americans, and reversing wage stagnation are the real solutions to America's high poverty and food insecurity rate, in the meantime, a strong SNAP program that reaches low-wage working families is crucial to encourage work and reduce hunger.

Even as SNAP policies and procedures change with the times, the program's core mission remains the same. When the Food Stamp Act was passed in 1964, it aimed to provide better nutrition to low-income households while benefiting our agricultural economy. Fifty years later, research shows SNAP is still doing just that.

For example, SNAP benefits boost the economy by creating markets, and spurring economic growth and jobs in urban and rural communities at grocers, superstores, farmers' markets, military commissaries, manufacturers and farms. And because SNAP benefits are so urgently needed, they are spent quickly—97 percent of benefits are redeemed within the month of issuance—and therefore have great positive economic effects. Moody's Analytics and USDA estimate that the economic growth impact of SNAP ranges from $1.73 to $1.79 per $1 of SNAP benefits.

One component of SNAP that needs to change and hasn't is the amount of the monthly benefit allotment. While we know the program is capable of reducing food insecurity, improving the health and well-being of recipients, and ultimately saving taxpayer dollars on avoided healthcare costs, it could work much better. Current benefits are based on assumptions developed in the 1930s for emergency diets. That plan is now woefully outmoded on every front from nutrition to practicality. Multiple studies, including the USDA's own analysis of a recent (temporary) boost in benefits, show the value of a healthier allotment.

Over the course of any 50-year period, change is inevitable. Since August 1964, SNAP's strength has been recognizing and responding to those changes. Today, the program's mission is as necessary as it was 50 years ago: providing relevant, vital help to boost nutrition, economic security and health among seniors, children, people with disabilities, and unemployed or low-income working families. This is an anniversary worth celebrating.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Seven decades of peace in the Pacific

By DON A. FARRELL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sixty-nine years ago today, Sept. 2, 1945, the world's most devastating war came to a sudden, cataclysmic and unexpected end, providing for the preservation of a unified Japan and an unprecedented era of self-determination and decolonization in the Pacific.

The Soviet Union had joined the war against Japan on Aug. 9, intent on capturing Hokkaido, the northernmost of the main Japanese islands; the British Empire was poised to attack Japanese forces on the Malay Peninsula on Sept. 9 and on Nov. 1 the United States was prepared to land hundreds of thousands of war-weary men on Kyushu—an invasion that would have dwarfed Normandy. However, an unusual wartime collaboration between American and British science and industry brought the war to a end before the British and America invasions were launched and before the Soviet Union could land troops on Hokkaido. As a result Japan was neither invaded nor partitioned, as had been Germany only months before.

Because of the respect shown to the Japanese imperial system by the United States during the surrender and occupation of Japan, the postwar American leadership was able to work with the Japanese leadership to help reconstruct their nation under democratic principles, to rebuild a vibrant Japanese economy, to regain a position of respect in the family of Pacific nations and to establish a strong alliance with the United States that continues to provide for economic development and political stability in the Western Pacific 'til this day.

Unfortunately, there were been bumps in the road to total peace in the Pacific. The "Strange Alliance" that President Roosevelt forged with the Communist Soviet Union at the outset of WWII in Europe was successful, in that Soviet participation in the war against Germany was critical, as was that of China and England. However, following the defeat of Germany in May 1945, World War II slid into the Cold War as the Soviet Union ignored the precepts of decolonization as envisioned in the United Nations Charter and established Communist-backed puppet governments in its wartime-captured European territories. Then Mao Zedong won the civil war in China and established the People's Republic of China as a Communist State in 1949, and regional confrontations developed in Korea (June 25, 1950 - July 27, 1953) and Vietnam (1946 to 1975), wherein the United States and other democracies attempted to block Communist expansion in Southeast Asia. Korea ended in a stalemate at the 38th Parallel and Vietnam became the first war America ever lost.

Nonetheless, the rest of the Pacific has enjoyed seven decades of peace. Harry S. Truman signed the United Nations Charter on Aug. 8, 1945, Washington, D.C. time, inducing an era of decolonization and self-determination in the Pacific that has proceeded, slowly but steadily, along previously unparalleled lines. On July 4, 1946, as pledged by Roosevelt in 1936, the former U.S. territory of the Philippine Islands became the Republic of the Philippines. Although the young republic had a rocky beginning, born as it was in the aftermath of war, the RoP has become the standard bearer of democratic self-development among Southeast Asian nations. And in 1954 Chiang Kai-shek successfully established a democratic government in Taiwan, aligned with the United States, and now participates actively in Pacific economic development projects.

Under the watchful eye of the United Nations, all the Trust Territories of the Pacific, including the Strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, concluded their acts of self-determination. Japan returned to the Pacific as a trading partner and established the visitor industries that are now enjoyed by the former territory of Hawai'i (statehood in 1959), the self-governing U.S. territory of Guam (1950) and the Northern Mariana Islands (Commonwealth in 1978). The former territory of Alaska, a vital Pacific Rim partner, also gained statehood in 1959 and now influences Pacific Island development programs. And, of course, Vietnam was reunified in 1976 and is now a major trading partner with the United States.

Then, in 1990 the Soviet Union collapsed as the Berlin Wall came tumbling down. The Cold War was over (in a sense finally bringing WWII in Europe to an end). American casualties in Korea and Vietnam were vindicated; Germany was reunified and the fear of a nuclear holocaust that had haunted three generations of the world's youth finally dissipated. And now, both Russia and China are doing significant business in the Pacific Islands.

Maintaining peace in the Pacific remains problematic: the continuing thorny situation presented by a divided and confrontational Korea, disputed islands in the South China Sea, self-determination for the U.S. territory of Guam and American Samoa, fishing rights among Pacific Islanders, exploitation of seabed minerals and subsea geothermal energy, and the effects of global warming on low-lying atolls.

Fortunately, the general peace that has prevailed in the Pacific since the end of World War II has allowed Pacific Islanders to gain higher education and to become exposed to international concerns, so much so that today's indigenous Pacific Islanders are representing their own people's concerns in regional policy-making bodies, and doing it quite effectively.

So, as our children climb on a school bus today, Sept. 2, 2014, let's not forget that they do so because of the price that was paid by the men and women who served in uniform during World War II, many of whom did not live long enough to have children. And most important, let us remember that it is now the responsibility of this generation to protect peace in the Pacific so that our children's grandchildren will have the same opportunity to enjoy a similar peaceful day on the opening of school on some Sept. 2, far in the future.

Don A. Farrell is a CNMI historian and author of numerous history books about the Northern Mariana Islands.

We need to stand firm on healthy school lunches

By DARRYL LORENZO WELLINGTON
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The beginning of the school year is a time to recommit ourselves to good childhood nutrition.

Back in 2010, Congress passed the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, inspired by Michelle Obama's anti-child-obesity campaign. The law provides extra money for school lunches to schools that follow higher nutritional standards. These include additional servings of fruits and less salt, sugar and fat at lunchtime. Think whole-grain bread instead of white bread, and no more French fries or chocolate milk.

Responsible adults should be cheering this law, since children confront a blizzard of advertising for sugary cereals and candies and other junk food whenever they watch TV.

But a coalition of conservative legislators, some school lunchroom workers and lobbyists for fast food companies are instead taking aim.

Republican members of the House of Representatives have introduced legislation that would weaken the law. They essentially are arguing that providing nutritional food for our kids is just too costly. Or they say that sometimes kids initially don't like the healthier offerings, so bring the junk food back.

Do some students mourn the "good old days" of salty fries? Sure. But the good old days weren't good for them.

Michelle Obama responded in a New York Times piece, reminding legislators to "put our children's interests first."

If we heeded that simple mandate, we wouldn't be having this debate at all.

If we put children's interests first, we would never have allowed increasing amounts of carbohydrate-loaded and nutritionally deficient food into our schools.

We would take for granted that healthy food can never be a low priority, or an expense that we can shirk.

The healthier meals that students consume today will help them develop habits that prevent high blood pressure, diabetes or heart disease. Surely, that's worth paying a small amount for.

So let's defend the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act.

And let's use the beginning of school as a reminder that we need to serve our kids healthy food at home, too.

Our kids' lives depend on it.

Darryl Lorenzo Wellington is a poet and journalist based in Santa Fe, N.M.

LITERARY NOOK

Flashback

By JOEY "PEPE BATBON" CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In 2004, ten years ago today,
What did news headlines say?
Here is a stanza, a quatrain
That will try to help and explain:

09/01/2004
To morning papers and network news we're all tuning in
it's Republican Convention time as spin doctors spin
speeches from V.P. Cheney & Arnold Schwarzenegger
swelled muscle heads getting bigger and bigger

09/02/2004
Republicans on Madison Square Gardens stage
in the streets activist rage, some locked in a cage
negative vibes from Vice President Cheney
Arnold S. gets applause for being so zany

09/03/2004
About his War on Terror
Bush runs off at the mouth
while a school full of children
is held hostage in the Russian South

09/04/2004
Many Pacific typhoons and Caribbean hurricanes
islands and peninsulas hit by heavy winds and rains
Russian school hostage deaths completely insane
Bush and Kerry continue a neck and neck campaign

09/05/2004
Hurricane Frances shows Florida its wrath
as most of the state falls under its path
heavy rains in southern China cause hundreds of deaths
as flooding and landslides blow deadly breaths

09/06/04
Russia mourns terrorist victims/ we search for bin Laden
world leaders might heed this verse of W.H. Auden
" I and the public know/ What all schoolchildren learn
Those to whom evil is done/ Do evil in return."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Just a drop in the bucket

I read with interest the article you published on Aug. 22 (LA Times) on the Syrian chemical weapons and John Kerry's statement on the 600 tons of sarin/mustard agents captured and destroyed on the MSC military cargo ship in the Mediterranean. I believe the 600 tons is a drop in the bucket after my experiences over there.

Shortly before "Iraqi Freedom" started in March 2003 I was in Israel for a month or so on an MSC "reserve breakout ship" carrying military cargo/ DOD plus 4ID personnel deployed on the Northern Invasion Group off the coast of Turkey. After three weeks the Turkish government denied us access through their country and the vessel was deployed to Haifa, Israel to undergo boiler repairs before deployment to the Persian Gulf via the Suez Canal. I was on an assignment as a REO/ OP's officer onboard one of the breakout cape ships. At this time I had frequent contact with some members of the DOD and State Department with occasional meetings with Israeli personnel. (My duties required me to handle classified documents and secure communications systems). After a few weeks I learned that Saddam Hussein had started shipping out several 40-foot containers to Syria. (These containers contained almost 100 tons of WMDs including VX, sarin gas and several other types of chemical weapons and associated equipment.) The Syrian defense minister's son arranged the deal with Saddam. About $50 million exchanged hands!

A year or so after that, al-Qaeda members were caught on the Jordanian border with 20 tons of chemicals (VX, sarin gas) ready to wreak havoc on the people of Jordan. I had previously completed a few CBRD courses before being deployed in Desert Storm/Desert Thunder and not an expert by far, but I understand that up to 100,000 people could have been killed in Jordan with that amount of VX, sarin gas.

If I did my math correctly, there are many more tons of chemical weapons left over there. ISIS maybe stocking up on this deadly stuff by now!

Ed Williams
Garapan, Saipan

HOTELS

From Page 11

rain and go find yourself another hotel miles down the road, but you'll pay the same fees there, of course.

When pricing hits gouging, it's time for regulators to step in. Consumers who need to travel and have to have places to stay can't do much other than to throw up their hands and pay it. But Congress has a right, and in fact a duty, to protect them.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

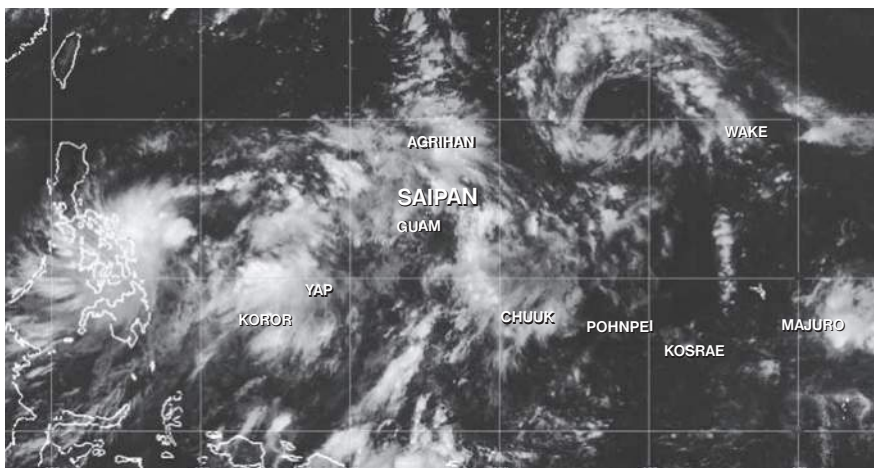
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼45
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲73	▼64
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲86	▼73
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼72
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Pusan	Showers	▲74	▼70
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼63
Salem	Sunny	▲83	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼66
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼69
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲92	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough meanders east-northeastward from the central Philippines through 10N130E and a broad circulation centered north of Koror near 10N135E passes near Saipan at 16N146E to end southwest of Wake Island at 16N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the circulation and trough over Palau and western Yap state between 5N and 15N from 132E to 138E. Isolated thunderstorms are seen west of Koror west of a line from 4N132E to 8N131E and also between the equator and 1N from 134E to 137E. Similar conditions are also found well southeast of Yap within 40 miles of a line from 2N142E to 5N145E to 6N148E. Divergent upper-level winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of the trough near Chuuk within 80 miles of a line from 14N148E to 7N151E to 8N156E and also north of the trough over the northern CNMI within 220 miles of a line from 16N139E to 19N149E. Two upper-level lows are centered near Iwo To island at 26N142E and southeast of Minami Tori Shima at 20N157E. Isolated thunderstorms are present near the first low north of a line from 21N143E to 22N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are evident near the second low between 13N and 25N from 152E to 166E and also east of Wake Island within 70 miles of a line from 22N168E to 19N173E. A surface trough runs northward from 1N171E to end near Majuro at 6N171E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located just east of Majuro within 135 miles of a line from 8N173E to 4N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:37 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
2:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:54 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:07 PM	11:51 PM
Wednesday	1:03 PM	
Thursday	2:00 PM	12:46 AM
Friday	2:56 PM	1:45 AM
Saturday	3:52 PM	2:46 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Citadel Pacific enhances security of Guam installations

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Navy and Air Force service members and personnel throughout the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility including Guam tested their anti-terrorism plans and response during Exercise Citadel Pacific 2014 from Aug. 25 to 29.

Joint Region Marianas, U.S. Naval Base Guam, Andersen Air Force Base, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, and USS *Oklahoma City* participated in the annual exercise to enhance the training and readiness of security forces to respond to threats to the installation and units.

"It's to prepare us for real-world type events and these scenarios here were based on incidents that have happened in the past," said JRM security officer Gregory Jacobs. "The focus will be to train our personnel to ensure that they can respond accordingly and they can take appropriate actions."

During the exercise, a simulated active-shooter event was held at the JRM headquarters where three individuals were pronounced dead at the scene and seven others severely wounded and transported to USNH Guam. Hospital Commanding Officer Capt. Jeannie Comlish said the mass casualty drill held in response to the simulated active-shooter incident was an excellent opportunity for her staff to test their readiness and response in the new facility.

"This is our first opportunity to really test the building and test how our staff work within the building to flow patients to the places they need to go," she said. "We are clinically ready. We have an excellent staff and our clinical skills are outstanding, and we're here to take care of patients and provide that exceptional care."

Comlish added the exercise not only assessed the response of everyone involved but the partnership between different commands and agencies.

"I think that practicing and drilling and working together at times when it's not a reality… helps all of us for a time when disasters catch us off guard," she said. "They identify what we're doing really well and how we can communicate as partnership in a community." ***(PR)***

U.S. NAVY/LEAH ECLAVEA

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Matthew Ohrvall, U.S. Naval Base Security, and military working dog Lady inspect a vehicle during a vehicle-based improvised explosive device exercise at the base.

U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

A simulated active shooter takes a role player hostage after shooting two others during an active-shooter training at the Joint Region Marianas headquarters.

U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

U.S. Naval Base Guam Security and Fire Emergency Services personnel help individuals role playing victims during an active-shooter training at the Joint Region Marianas headquarters.

U.S. NAVY/LEAH ECLAVEA

U.S. Naval Base Guam Security personnel simulate a vehicle-based improvised explosive device during an exercise at the installation.

U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

U.S. Naval Base Guam Fire Emergency Services personnel help an individual role-playing a victim during an active-shooter training at the Joint Region Marianas headquarters.

U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

U.S. Naval Hospital Guam personnel assist personnel role playing victims of an active-shooter training during a mass casualty exercise at the facility.

U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

U.S. Naval Hospital Guam personnel assist a role player of an active-shooter training during a mass casualty exercise at the facility.

A. Samoa govt: No legal basis for citizenship lawsuit

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News/PIR)—Attorneys for the American Samoa government and Delegate Eni Faleomavaega have both called on the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., to affirm the lower court's decision dismissing the citizenship lawsuit filed by five American Samoans and a California-based organization.

ASG and Faleomavaega made the argument in their 57-page brief as intervenors or in the alternative, amici curiae, or friends of the court. Local resident Leneuoti Tuaua is the lead plaintiff in the case, which argues that the U.S. Constitution gives people born in American Samoa the right to become automatic citizens of the U.S. instead of being U.S. nationals.

The State Department—a defendant in the case—has disagreed and argues that only the U.S. Congress has the authority to grant citizenship to outlying territories such as American Samoa.

» Decision for AS US citizenship at birth tantamount to 'statehood'

In their joint brief in support of the defendants, ASG and Faleomavaega argue that the question of whether birthright citizenship should extend to the people of American Samoa is for the people of American Samoa—not for the courts—to decide.

In every other case in which people born in overseas territories were granted birthright citizenship, it has been Congress, not the courts, who made the decision, they say.

"There simply is no legal basis for upsetting 100 years of precedent indicating that the Citizenship Clause does not apply in every territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States," the brief states. "Nor would doing so make any sense."

"Many aspects of the *fa'a* Samoa—the Samoan way of life—are wholly unlike anything either in the other territories or the continental United States, and this way of life and foundational, cultural institutions would be jeopardized if subjected to scrutiny under the Fourteenth Amendment," they state.

They also point out that American Samoa is unique among the territories of the United States. In contrast to other former colonies, "American Samoa has never been conquered, never been taken as a prize of war, and has never been annexed against the will of [its] people.

"Instead, American Samoa's tribal leaders, the *matai*, voluntarily ceded sovereignty to the U.S. government in 1900," the brief says, adding that although American Samoa has adopted many of the governing values of the U.S., "it retains a vibrant and unique culture, the Samoan way of life or *fa'a* Samoa."

ASG and Faleomavaega also point out that although the people of American Samoa are proud of their relationship with the United States, "they have never come to a consensus about whether they should ask for Congress to grant them citizenship at birth.

"Instead, people born in American Samoa are U.S. nationals, not U.S. citizens, by birth. They owe allegiance to the United States, are able to enter the United States freely, and may apply for U.S. citizenship without satisfying the requirements of permanent residence. Many American Samoans also serve with distinction in the U.S. Armed Forces," they say.

The argument notes that courts have refused to apply the Citizenship Clause to other territories for over a century.

"That precedent should be followed with respect to American Samoa," they state. "The Supreme Court and this Circuit have repeatedly emphasized that longstanding precedent should only be overruled in limited situations, such as when it has proven unworkable."

According to ASG and Faleomavaega, "Birthright citizenship by judicial fiat would upend this longstanding relationship and jeopardize the *fa'a* Samoa. The traditional way of life in American Samoa would likely face heightened scrutiny under the United States Constitution if the scope of the Citizenship Clause were read to reach American Samoa."

"Most problematically, the communal land system at the heart of the *fa'a* Samoa is protected by Samoan law restricting the sale of community land to anyone with less than 50 percent racial Samoan ancestry," they says.

"This restriction is consistent with practice going back to when America assumed possession of American Samoa in 1900 and Commander B.F. Tilley prohibited the alienation of land to non-Samoans," they pointed out.

And as experience in other territories shows, even clear protections for traditional practices are quickly circumscribed when courts begin to scrutinize the rights of citizens under the Equal Protection Clause.

For example, the pair pointed out that just this last May, the federal court in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands struck down the CNMI's laws restricting voting in constitutional referenda to the indigenous people of CNMI (known as Chamorros and Carolinians).

Nevertheless, the CNMI federal court found that "[a]ll citizens have an equal interest in whether they are entitled to buy real property, and on what terms," according to ASG and Faleomavaega—referring to a provision of the court's ruling.

The pair include a footnote that perhaps this is why CNMI is the only territory not represented in plaintiffs' amici filings for the appeal's court.

ASG and Faleomavaega further point out that American Samoa has worked closely with Congress to maintain a deliberate distance between the territory and the laws of the United States.

"It has done so because this distance is necessary to respect the cultural autonomy of American Samoa and its way of life," they said. "If the courts bridge this distance with a novel application of the Citizenship Clause it would effectively decide the political status of American Samoa without any democratic input."

"Ultimately, a decision for citizenship is a decision for 'statehood'," they say, adding that the pair cannot think of any example of a territory that was deemed part of the United States for constitutional citizenship purposes where the result has been anything other than closer union. Any such decision must be made by Congress and the people of American Samoa."

The pair made clear to the court that Faleomavaega has long advocated that the people of American Samoa put serious thought into their status with the United States.

Among the options currently available to American Samoa are closer relationship (like Puerto Rico or the CNMI), Free Association (like the Marshall Islands or the Federated States of Micronesia), or even independence.

Chief selects help Asan residents prevent flooding

ASAN, Guam—Navy Guam chief selects partnered with a village mayor to clear land that will be used as a community garden and improve the living conditions of surrounding residents in Asan on Aug. 29.

"The chief selectees from Big Navy, thanks to them they are helping me with this place, which is always flooded during the rainy season and it overflows to the residents because of the poor drainage, and also we are going to use it as a community garden," said Mayor of Asan-Maina Joanna Margaret Blas. "I am so grateful, and thank you is not enough."

One of the residents, Elizabeth Untalan, was watching the chief selects clear the land beside her mother's home. Untalan was happy knowing that her mother doesn't have to worry about flooding in the future.

"This morning my mother was crying with happiness," said Untalan.

The chief selects spent the day cutting down large trees and removing debris from the area.

"It's important to give back because the people of Guam have taken us in," said Chief (select) Logistics Specialist Kenneth Hughes, Military Sealift Command Ship Support Unit Guam. "They welcomed us and this is just a way to return the favor and say 'thank you.'"

The process to becoming a chief in the Navy is a long and challenging road. Enlisted sailors go through the ranks from E-1 to E-5. Their years of service and leadership potential are carefully evaluated by the Navy Chief Selection Board.

"When you step into the ranks of the chief petty officer, your job is to take care of your sailors, develop your sailors, train your sailors to make sure that we have a strong fleet," said Hughes. "The chiefs mess is basically where all knowledge, all the traditions and heritage of the Navy is kept and we are the keepers of tradition."

Hughes believes in helping out in the community and demonstrating strong leadership by being an example of service.

"If we come out here and represent the Navy and we work in the community, it is showing our junior sailors it is okay to come out and do things that help the people around you, even though they are not in the military," said Hughes. "This is just us giving back and saying, 'hey we can do it.' As the chief selects out here this is us saying we are not above anything, just because we're chiefs doesn't mean you can't get down and can't get dirty." ***(PR)***

Chief selects cut down a tree during a community relations event. Chief selects partnered with the Asan-Maina Mayor's Office to clear land that is causing flooding for surrounding residents in the village.

LEAH ECLAVEA

Chief (select) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Theodore Baranek, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 Detachment Marianas, uses a machete to cut up a tree during a community relations event.

LEAH ECLAVEA

170 avail of free services in EVM's 'Night of Giving'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 170 people participated in Empty Vessel Ministry's "Night of Giving" last Thursday night at the Garapan Street Market where much needed medical services were provided for free, according to EVM president Rose Smith.

Partners who helped run the event included the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Hardt Eye Clinic, Marianas Visiting Nurses, and Marianas Health Center.

A row of tables were set up for members of the public interested in getting their blood pressure and blood sugar checked by volunteer nursing students from the Northern Marianas College.

Joe Jucutan, a first year student in the nursing program at NMC, said he volunteered at the event to "get experience." Lina Manilili, another first year nursing student, described her work as "exciting" as she helped one man get his blood pressure checked.

Participants brought their blood sugar and pressure results to a team of Commonwealth Health Center doctors offering consultation that night.

In an interview, Dr. John Doyle said as of two hours into the event they had already referred some people based on their blood scores.

Dolye, who said the team at CHC is the closest-knit group of professionals he's ever worked with, would like to see more community outreach done.

He said there are three pressing health issues in the Commonwealth: kidney disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. All three, he said, are tied together.

He said he'd like to get outreach into the schools and other areas of the community, as "a lot of people don't know" they are genetically at-risk for these diseases.

"Nobody wants to get sick," he added.

Hardt Eye Clinic offered a booth where participants could check for general eye prescription levels and watery eyes.

They also had equipment to check eye pressure for cholesterol build up, according to optician Eric M. Mahinay.

Smith said it was her first time to undergo an eye screening as a busy work-life sometimes prevents her from taking care of herself properly.

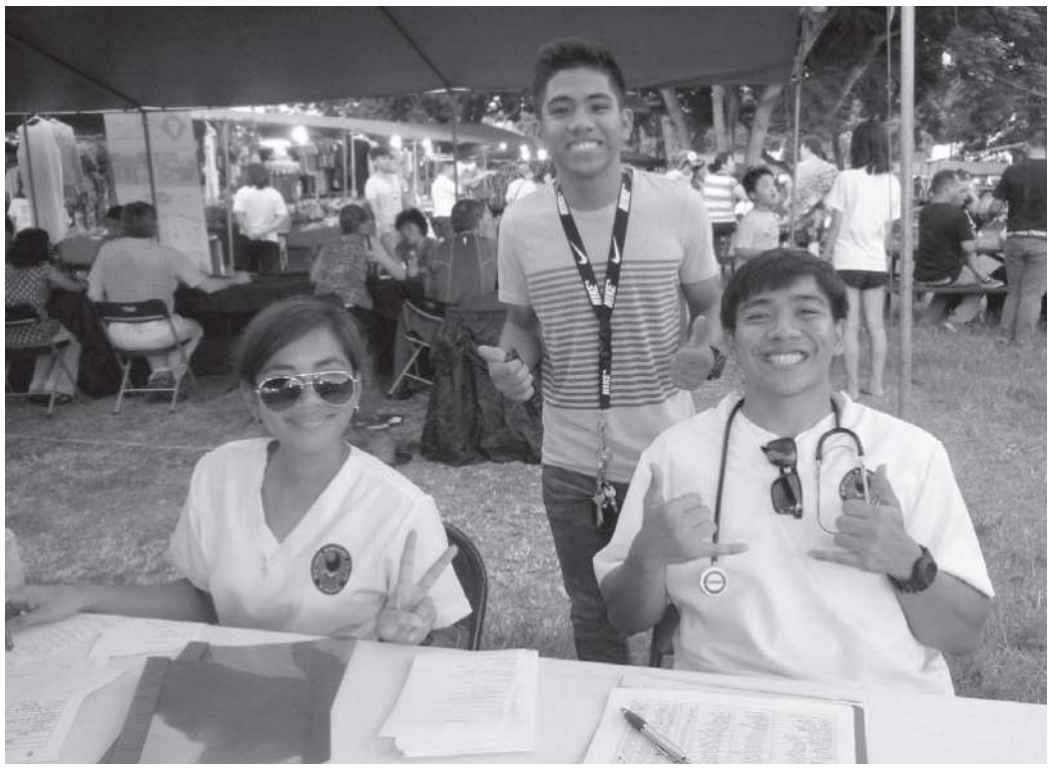
She said she hopes more events like these will afford people the opportunity to understand and improve their health.

Smith would like to thank Esther Muña, CEO of CHCC, for her team of doctors, and Angel Hocog, director of the Commonwealth Arts and Culture Council, who let them set up the event, as well as those who donated school supplies for families in need.

She said that EVM intends to host more "giving" events like this in the future and hopes to let the community know of future events.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Empty Vessel Ministry president Rose Smith, right, poses with team members from the Marianas Health Center during Thursday night's "Night of Giving" at the Garapan Street Market.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

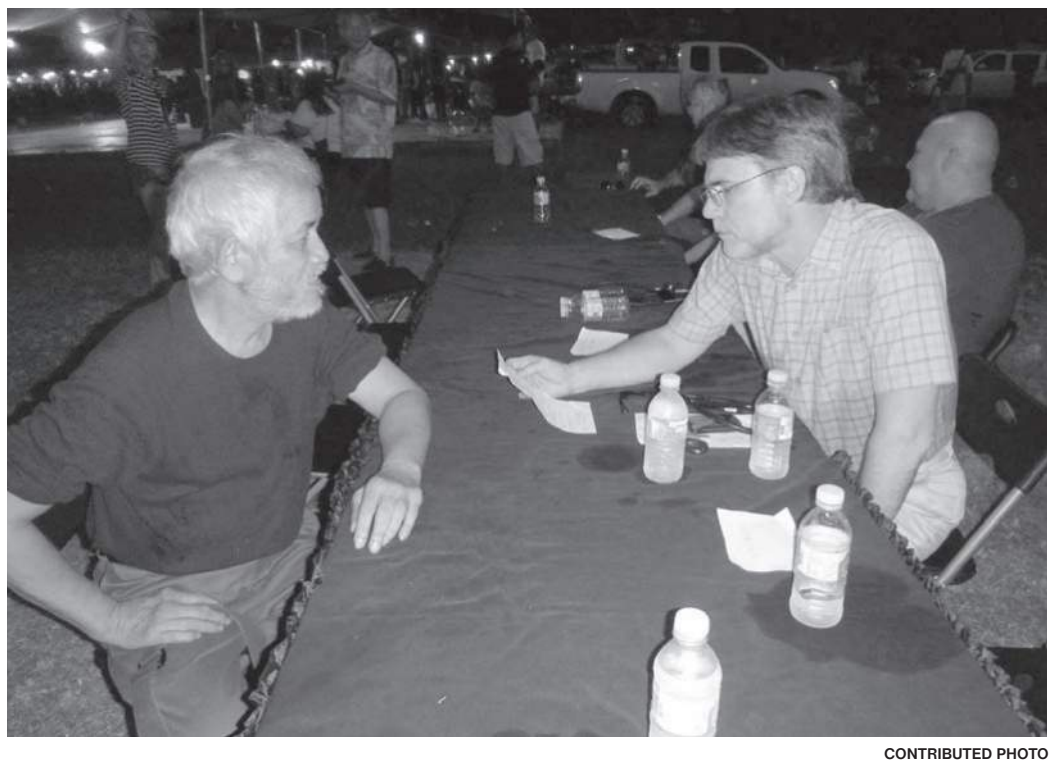
Volunteer nursing students from the Northern Marianas College take part in Thursday night's "Night of Giving" at the Garapan Street Market.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A member of the public consults one of the physicians present at Thursday night's "Night of Giving" at the Garapan Street Market.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hardt Eye Clinic optician Eric M. Mahinay checks the eyes of a member of the public during Thursday night's "Night of Giving" at the Garapan Street Market.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Commonwealth Health Center physicians looks at the results of a member of the public during Thursday night's "Night of Giving" at the Garapan Street Market.

Business

Cuba cracks down on goods in travelers' luggage

HAVANA (AP)—Cubans braced Monday for a clampdown on the flow of car tires, flat-screen televisions, blue jeans and shampoo in the bags of travelers who haul eye-popping amounts of foreign-bought merchandise to an island where consumer goods are frequently shoddy, scarce and expensive.

Hundreds of thousands of Cubans and Cuban-Americans fly to and from the island each year thanks to the easing of travel restrictions by the U.S. and Cuban governments over the last five years. Their Cuba-bound checked baggage has become a continuous airlift that moves nearly $2 billion of products ranging from razor blades to rice cookers. The baggage carousels at Cuba's airports often look like they're disgorging the contents of an entire Wal-Mart or Target store. Many families bring special trailers to carry the bags of their returning family, which often weigh many hundreds of pounds and include items such as bicycles and flat-screen TVs.

But the Cuban government on Monday is enacting new rules meant to take a big bite of that traffic, sharply limiting the amount of goods people can bring into Cuba in their luggage, and ship by boat from abroad. The Cuban government says the restrictions are meant to curb abuses that have turned air travel in particular into a way for professional "mules" to illegally import supplies for both black-market businesses and legal private enterprises that are supposed to buy supplies from the state.

Among ordinary Cubans, reactions have ranged from worry to outrage that their primary, and for many only, source of high-quality consumer goods may be throttled.

"People are really unhappy," said Maite Delgado, a 75-year-old retired state worker. "All the clothes and shoes that I have come from my granddaughters in Spain or my siblings in the U.S."

The rules that go into effect Monday run 41 pages and give a sense of the quantity and diversity of the commercial goods arriving in checked bags. Travelers will now be allowed to bring in 22 pounds (10 kilos) of detergent instead of 44; one set of hand tools instead of two; and 24 bras instead of 48. Four car tires are still permitted, as are two pieces of baby furniture and two flat-screen televisions. Cuban customs also bars passengers from bringing in items worth more than $1,000. Rather than examining receipts, customs agents are given a long list assigning pre-set values to certain goods ($250 for a video-game console, for example.) Those prices rise sharply under the new rules, making it far easier to reach that $1,000 limit.

The new rules similarly increase the duties paid on goods shipped from abroad, another major source of foreign merchandise for the island.

Authorities have taken to the airwaves and pages of state media in recent days to assure Cubans that the vast majority of travelers won't be affected. The change is intended "to keep certain people from using current rules on non-commercial imports to bring into the country high volumes of goods that are destined for commercial sale and profit," Idalmis Rosales Milanes, deputy chief of Cuban customs, told government newspaper Granma in Friday editions.

Joining corporate ranks takes some adjusting

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Q: After accepting a position in my company's corporate office, I have found that I'm not very comfortable here. In engineering, where I previously worked, everyone was much less formal and communication was more direct. But this environment seems to require some special interpersonal skills. I am also interacting with top executives for the first time in my career.

Although I have tried hard to make a good first impression, I don't really seem to fit in. Despite my previous successes, this difficult transition is causing me to doubt my abilities. I was initially excited about this opportunity, but now I wonder if it was a mistake. Do you have any advice?

A: Moving to the corporate office from the field almost always feels like a trip through the looking glass. People typically dress more formally, hierarchy is more strictly observed, and everything seems slightly removed from the "real world." So take comfort in the fact that your uneasiness is not uncommon.

Since there is no handy guidebook on corporate norms, you need to start looking for role models. Identify well-respected people on your level, then observe how they act and interact. If you have a supportive supervisor or human resources manager, request a brief orientation session on corporate expectations.

To increase your sense of belonging, schedule get-acquainted meetings with your new colleagues. Explain that you wish to learn more about their roles and responsibilities, then come prepared with specific questions. If this is a sociable bunch, consider having these conversations over lunch.

As you discovered, corporate life automatically involves contact with executives. Making a positive impression could accelerate your career, but the reverse can also be true. You must therefore learn about their individual hot buttons before you accidentally push one. For example, I knew one CEO who went absolutely ballistic if someone failed to answer the phone on the first three rings.

Understanding the corporate perspective will increase your business knowledge and broaden your scope. So even if you eventually conclude that this is not the place for you, the assignment should provide a valuable learning experience.

■■■

Q: A few months ago, during my performance review, I asked my boss about opportunities for advancement. I recently completed my undergraduate degree, which should qualify me for a wider range of jobs. My manager said she would think about this, but she has never mentioned it again. Should I remind her?

A: While you probably ponder your future on a daily basis, your manager undoubtedly has other priorities. Even if she supports your career goals, she could easily have forgotten this conversation. She may also have assumed that you would initiate the next discussion, so don't hesitate to do so.

For example: "During my performance review, we discussed the possibility that completing my college degree might qualify me for other jobs. I have found a few that interest me, but I would also like to get your opinion."

If your boss is not immediately ready to talk about this topic, try to schedule a specific time in the not-too-distant future.

Nation

Ferguson flashpoint sparks nat'l outrage

AP

In this Aug. 17, 2014 file photo, people protest for Michael Brown, who was killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—They were killed in Wisconsin, New York and California. Some were shot on the street. One was killed in a Wal-Mart. Another died after being placed in a chokehold. All died at the hands of police and all have been united by one thing: the killing of Michael Brown.

Details may differ, circumstances of their deaths may remain unknown, but the outrage that erupted after the Aug. 9 fatal shooting of the unarmed, black 18-year-old by a white officer in Ferguson, Missouri, has become a rallying cry in protests over police killings across the nation.

While there's been nothing approaching the violence seen in the St. Louis suburb, demonstrations fueled by a sense of injustice and buoyed with the help of social media have rolled across cities, regardless of whether the shootings took place last week or last month.

The spark, said Garrett Duncan, an associate professor of education and African-American studies at Washington University in St. Louis, was how Ferguson police bungled the aftermath of Brown's killing, leading to rioting and looting in the face of a heavily armed police force and, later, the National Guard.

"When you leave an 18-year-old boy's body in the street for four hours in a Missouri summer, that's going to trigger something," Duncan said. "The reason it's politicized is we still don't know what's going on. The boy is buried and we still don't know the circumstances."

"Folks exploit these things for one thing or another," he said. "Whether to loot—or get their 15 minutes of fame."

In a culture where the 24/7 news cycle dissects events and often fills the information void with opinion, the topic of police shootings has become polarizing - from the White House to cable shows to Asia.

Brown's name and Ferguson have become synonymous with police killings. They have been splashed on signs by protesters, added to hashtags on Twitter and referred to on T-shirts that sport the refrain heard in the city: "Hands up! Don't shoot."

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, a city facing federal-ordered reforms over excess police force, protesters have begun invoking Brown's name at rallies connected to the city's string of police shootings.

David Correia, a critic of city police, said protesters invoked Brown's name because they believe minorities have been targeted in some excessive force cases. Around half of the 41 police shootings involved Hispanic suspects in a city where about half of the residents are Latino.

Bad weather shuts down concerts, delays flights

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Severe thunderstorms across the Northeast on Sunday slowed operations at airports, wreaked havoc at outdoor sporting and musical events in New York and Philadelphia and sent people scurrying from a beach after three men were struck by lightning.

The men were injured at Orchard Beach on Pelham Bay in the Bronx on Sunday evening as bad storms rolled through the area, the Fire Department of New York said. The men were being treated at a hospital, and the extent of their injuries was unknown.

Torrential rain, thunder and lightning interrupted Labor Day weekend celebrations in Philadelphia, where a parkway hosting a music concert was evacuated for safety reasons. Organizers of the Made in America festival warned people to move quickly and calmly to the exits and to protected areas outside the downtown festival site until the bad weather passed.

Besides temporarily stopping the Made in America concert, the bad weather also forced the early end to the Electric Zoo musical festival on an island in New York's East River and halted play for the first time at this year's U.S. Open tennis tournament in Queens.

ACROSS THE NATION

Official: 5 killed in plane crash north of Denver

ERIE, Colo. (AP)—All five people aboard a small plane that crashed near an airport north of Denver have died, a spokesman for the National Transportation Board said. The Piper PA-46 airplane crashed near the Erie Municipal Airport about 11:50 a.m., NTSB spokesman Peter Knudson said Sunday afternoon. Shortly after the crash, three people were declared dead at the scene and two were taken to hospitals.

The Boulder Daily Camera reports that their names and ages are being withheld by the Weld County Coroner's Office pending notification of relatives.

Northern California wildfires show slower growth

HAPPY CAMP, Calif. (AP)—The U.S. Forest Service says cloudy skies and lower temperatures have slowed the spread of two forest wildfires that are threatening as many as 250 homes in far Northern California. The Forest Service reported Sunday that the fires had burned 98 square miles in the Klamath National Forest by Sunday. That was 8 square miles more than a day earlier, but the figure represented a significant reduction in the growth of the blazes that had picked up steam as humidity declined and winds increased late last week. The two wildfires are the largest among 17 that were sparked by lightning in the forest on Aug. 11. They remained 15 percent contained.

California school retires divisive Arab mascot

THERMAL, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California high school has retired a controversial Arab mascot. The bearded, snarling mascot with a large hooked nose who wears a head scarf did not appear at Coachella Valley High School's season opening football game on Friday. A belly-dancing genie that often appears with the mascot during halftime was also retired. The Desert Sun reports the change was among the steps the Coachella Valley Unified School District is taking to give the mascot a makeover.

Asia

Police, protesters clash in Pakistani capital

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Anti-government protesters armed with slingshots and hammers clashed repeatedly with police Sunday in the Pakistani capital, and the powerful military cautioned the prime minister against further use of force in the crisis that has triggered the biggest challenge yet to his authority.

At least three people were killed and nearly 400 admitted to hospitals in clashes that started Saturday night and continued to boil over Sunday, officials said.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met with top advisers seeking a way to ease the violence, which has raised the stakes in the two-week sit-in led by opposition politician Imran Khan and fiery cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri. They want the prime minister to step down over their allegations of massive voting fraud in the election that brought him into office last year in the country's first democratic transfer of power.

Sharif's party was elected in a landslide in which observers found no evidence of widespread fraud. The prime minister has refused to step down, and negotiators have tried to convince Qadri and Khan to end their protests.

The military weighed in after a late Sunday meeting, saying that it had "serious concern" about the crisis and the "violent turn it has taken."

"Further use of force will only aggravate the problem," military leaders said in a statement that called on political figures to resolve their differences swiftly.

The demonstrations were mostly peaceful until late Saturday, when protesters headed toward the prime minister's residence. When the crowd started removing shipping containers used as barricades, police fired salvos of tear gas that forced protesters back.

Authorities have said they had no choice but to use force on the demonstrators, some of whom wore gas masks.

Hundreds of people were arrested, said Islamabad Police Chief Khalid Khattak. There were scattered clashes Sunday morning, and protesters appeared to regroup later in the afternoon.

By evening, large groups of protesters were located in pockets around the parliament and some had spread into other parts of the city, said police official Amir Paracha. He said they had taken shields from police and were wielding iron rods, batons, stones and bricks.

The injured included women, children, journalists and police officers who had been hurt by tear gas shells, batons and rubber bullets, said Dr. Javed Akram, who heads the capital's main hospital.

Railways Minister Saad Rafiq said the government would investigate the conduct of officers who beat up some journalists.

The prime minister met Sunday with top advisers at his residence. In a news release, Sharif said he would convene a joint session of parliament on Tuesday to address the crisis.

Thai junta leader stacks Cabinet with military men

BANGKOK (AP)—The general who transitioned from Thailand's junta leader to prime minister has awarded key Cabinet posts to his trusted allies from the armed forces, the latest in a series of moves that critics say will prolong the military's grip on power.

Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha's government lineup, announced Sunday after being approved by the king, includes 11 active or retired senior military officials with no political experience who will serve as the ministers of justice, education, defense, transport, commerce and foreign affairs, among other posts.

Prayuth also named 21 civilians to the 32-member Cabinet, including former Finance Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula, who will serve as a deputy prime minister.

Prayuth overthrew the elected government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on May 22 and has promised to eventually restore democracy and hold elections as early as 2015 after the military oversees sweeping political reforms.

Critics say the reforms are designed to purge the ousted ruling party's influence and benefit an elite minority that has failed to win national elections for more than a decade.

Thailand has been deeply divided since 2006, when former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra—Yingluck's brother—was also toppled in a coup after being accused of corruption, abuse of power and disrespect for King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Prayuth has said the army had to intervene this year to halt half a year of protests that had paralyzed the government and triggered violence that left dozens of people dead.

He has called for national unity but made no attempt to form a unity Cabinet, with no political allies of the Shinawatra family included in the lineup.

Prayuth awarded portfolios to several senior soldiers said to have played key roles in both coups, including his predecessor and mentor, former army chief Gen. Anupong Phaochinda. Anupong will serve as the new interior minister.

Prayuth was named prime minister on Aug. 21 by a legislature hand-picked by the junta and dominated by active and retired duty officers. There was little doubt over the outcome since Prayuth was the only candidate.

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korea says N. Korea fires projectile into sea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired another short-range projectile into the sea Monday, a Seoul official said, in the country's latest weapons test made three days after it cancelled a plan to send cheerleaders to the upcoming Asian Games in the South. The projectile flew about 220 kilometers (135 miles) before landing in waters off the North's east coast, a South Korean Defense Ministry official said speaking on condition of anonymity, citing department rules. North Korea routinely test-fires missiles and rockets but it has conducted an unusually large number of weapons tests this year. The country has sent a mixed signal by repeatedly making a set of proposals that it said would lower tensions, such as halting mutual slandering. South Korea has rebuffed those overtures saying the North must first take steps toward nuclear disarmament.

Japan urges toilet paper stock for major quake

TOKYO (AP)—On national disaster prevention day, Japan's government is urging people to stock up on toilet paper, because more than 40 percent of the nation's supply comes from a high-risk earthquake zone. The Trade and Industry Ministry is promoting specialty toilet paper for emergency use, marking Monday's national disaster prevention day. Officials say people immediately think of food and water as relief goods, but easily forget toilet paper, and get desperate when it's too late.

Beijing faces defiance in Hong Kong on vote reform

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong pro-democracy lawmakers disrupted a Beijing official's speech Monday as he sought to explain a decision announced over the weekend to tightly limit voting reforms for the southern Chinese financial hub. The legislators chanted slogans and held up placards accusing China's central government of "breaking its promise" to let Hong Kong directly elect its leader. Some stood on chairs and pumped their fists, waving signs that said "Shameful" and "Loss of faith." The noisy demonstration at the start of the speech by Li Fei, a deputy secretary general of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's legislature, was a rare occasion on which a Beijing official faced open defiance.

World

WHO: Senegal Ebola 'a top priority emergency'

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—The effort to contain Ebola in Senegal is "a top priority emergency," the World Health Organization said Sunday, as the government continued tracing everyone who came in contact with a Guinean student who has tested positive for the deadly disease in the capital, Dakar.

Senegal faces an "urgent need" for support and supplies including hygiene kits and personal protective equipment for health workers, the WHO said in a statement Sunday.

"These needs will be met with the fastest possible speed," the WHO said.

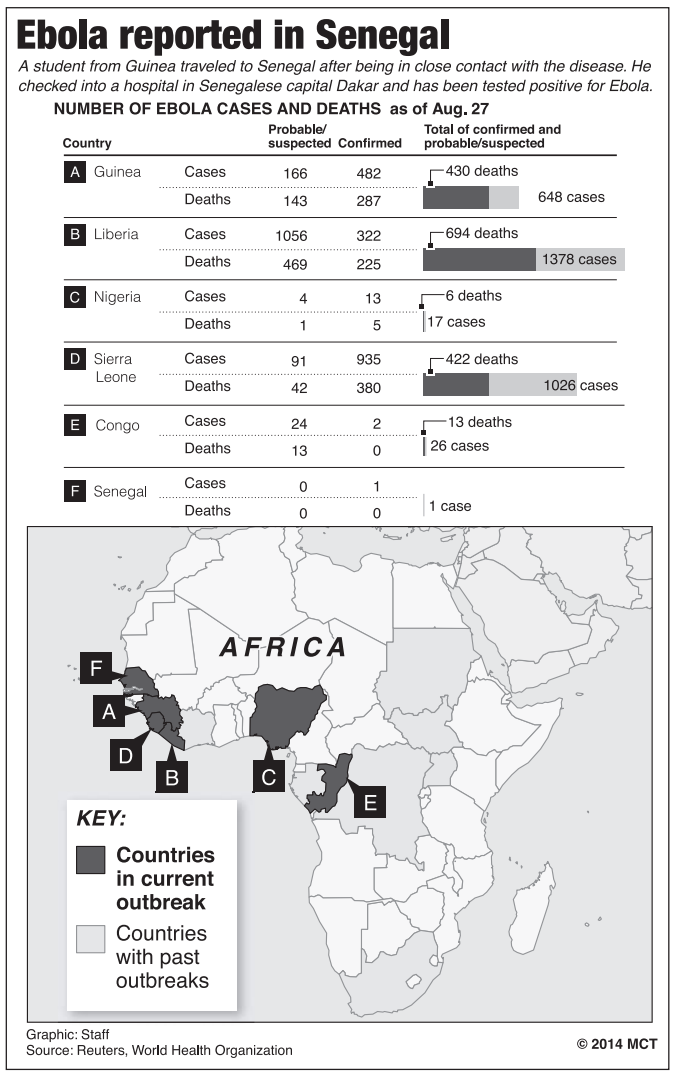
The U.N. health agency provided new information on the movements of the 21-year-old student in the city before he was diagnosed with Ebola.

Senegal confirmed that the student had tested positive for Ebola on Friday, making the country the fifth in West Africa to be affected by an outbreak that has killed more than 1,500 people.

The student showed up at a hospital in Dakar on Aug. 26 but did not reveal that he had been in contact with other Ebola victims, said Health Minister Awa Marie Coll Seck.

The next day, an epidemiological surveillance team in neighboring Guinea alerted Senegalese authorities that it had lost track of a person it was monitoring three weeks earlier, and that the person may have crossed into Senegal.

The student was tracked to the hospital in Dakar that same day and was immediately quarantined, and a test confirmed he had Ebola, Seck said.



In Sunday's statement, the WHO said the student arrived in Dakar by road on Aug. 20 and was staying with relatives "in the outskirts of the city."

It said that on Aug. 23, he went to a medical facility seeking treatment for fever, diarrhea and vomiting, all symptoms of Ebola.

He was treated for malaria, however, and continued to stay with his relatives before turning up at the Dakar hospital on Aug. 26.

"Though the investigation is in its early stages, he is not presently known to have traveled elsewhere," said the WHO, which received its information from Senegal's health ministry.

The presence of Ebola in Senegal, a tourist and transport hub, could complicate efforts to bring the outbreak under control. The country has already closed its land border with Guinea, where the outbreak originated, and barred air and sea travel from Sierra Leone and Liberia in an attempt to keep the disease out.

Islamist militia now guards US Embassy in Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—An Islamist-allied militia group in control of Libya's capital now guards the U.S. Embassy and its residential compound, a commander said Sunday, as onlookers toured the abandoned homes of diplomats who fled the country more than a month ago.

An Associated Press journalist saw holes left by small-arms and rocket fire dotting the residential compound, reminders of weeks of violence between rival militias over control of Tripoli that sparked the evacuation.

The breach of a deserted U.S. diplomatic post—including images of men earlier swimming in the compound's algae-filled pools—likely will reinvigorate debate in the U.S. over its role in Libya, more than three years after supporting rebels who toppled dictator Moammar Gadhafi. It also comes just before the two-year anniversary of the slaying of U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans in Libya.

A commander for the Dawn of Libya group, Moussa Abu-Zaqia, told the AP that his forces had been guarding the residential compound since last week, a day after it seized control of the capital and its international airport after weeks of fighting with a rival militia. Abu-Zaqia said the rival militia from Zintan was in the compound before his troops took it over.

A senior State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly, said the department is seeking additional information but believed the embassy compound "remains secure."

The official said the U.S. had moved embassy staff from Tripoli to Valletta, Malta, because of "ongoing fighting between militias occurring very close to our compound." Those personnel "remain engaged," the official said, while the State Department continues to work with the Libyan government.

Some windows at the compound had been broken, but it appeared most of the equipment there remained untouched. The AP journalist saw treadmills, weight benches and protein bars in the compound's abandoned gym. Forks, knives and napkins set for a banquet sat on one table, while a cantina still had cornflakes, vinegar, salt and pepper sitting out.

Some papers lay strewn on the floor, but it didn't appear that the villas in the compound had been ransacked.

Hassan Ali, a Dawn of Libya commander, said his fighters saw "small fires and a little damage" before they chased the rival Zintan militia out of the residential compound.

"We entered and put some of our fighters to secure this place and we preserved this place as much as we could," he said.

Abu-Zaqia said his militia had asked cleaners to come to spruce up the grounds.

He added that the U.S. Embassy staff "are most welcome in God's blessing, and any area that is controlled by Dawn of Libya is totally secure and there are no troubles at all."

Focus

AP

In this Oct. 21, 2012 file photo, an Indian girl poses for photos with an Indian flag at the Indo China border in Bumla at an altitude of 15,700 feet (4,700 meters) above sea level in Arunachal Pradesh, India. For more than 50 years, it has pitted India against China - a smoldering dispute over who should control a swath of land larger than Austria. Two militaries have skirmished. A brief, bloody war has been fought. And today, thousands of soldiers from both countries sit deployed along their shared frontier, doing little but watching each other.

What dispute? India and China ignore land squabble

TIM SULLIVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW DELHI (AP)—For more than 50 years, it has pitted India against China—a smoldering dispute over who should control a swath of land larger than Austria. Two militaries have skirmished. A brief, bloody war has been fought. And today, thousands of soldiers from both countries sit deployed along their shared frontier, doing little but watching each other.

But as Beijing confronts countries across the South China and East China seas, displaying its diplomatic and strategic strength in a series of increasingly dangerous territorial disputes, the India-China standoff results in almost nothing beyond regular diplomatic talks and professions of international friendship.

Because the last thing the world's two most populous countries want right now is war with each other. Not when things are going so well.

"The territorial issues and the sovereignty issues have not gone away," said Sujit Dutta, a China scholar at New Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia University. "But the Chinese are not pushing further (into the disputed regions) and neither are the Indians."

"Today, India and China have a new context for their relationship," he said.

That context comes down to two key components: An understanding that the disputed land has lost its strategic luster. And money.

Just a couple decades ago, India and China were dismissed as nations hobbled by widespread poverty and hopelessly lagging behind the West. Today, China has the world's second-largest economy, an immense, well-equipped military, an increasingly educated population and a vision for itself as one of the leading nations on earth. India, while economically far behind China, has become a global center for information technology and sees itself as a major player in Asia and elsewhere.

If both countries still struggle with widespread internal troubles — poverty, corruption, ethnic divisions, growing class divisions — the rest of the world can no longer write them off.

When it comes to turf wars, Beijing today is largely focused on expanding its maritime influence in East Asia and Southeast Asia, with its vast untapped mineral reserves and importance to global trade.

So in the East China Sea, China created an air defense perimeter to back up its claims to a speckling of uninhabited islands also claimed by Japan. In the South China Sea, Beijing temporarily moved an oil rig into waters also claimed by Vietnam, setting off a series of naval confrontations.

At first glance, the Himalayan border that India and China share seems ideal for similar clashes. China says the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, an immense territory of nearly 84,000 square kilometers (more than 32,000 square miles), is part of China. India, meanwhile, insists China is illegally occupying the region of Aksai Chin, a rocky and largely empty 37,000-square-kilometer (14,000-square-mile) region far to the east.

The two fought a monthlong border war in 1962 that left some 2,000 soldiers dead following a surprise Chinese attack that still embarrasses India, and skirmishes along the frontier continued into the 1970s. While border squabbling occurs every year or so, often when Chinese soldiers are reported spotted in Indian territory, there have been few serious showdowns since the late 1980s.

Today, cross-border cooperation is far more common than frontier standoffs. India's new prime minister, Narendra Modi, spoke repeatedly to top Chinese officials in the first weeks of his administration. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recently called the potential for India-China ties "the emerging tip of a massive buried treasure."

AP

In this Oct. 23, 2013 file photo, an Indian national flag is flown next to the Chinese national emblem during a welcome ceremony for visiting then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

While experts believe diplomatic infrastructure has helped keep things calm — there are now regularly scheduled border talks, military hotlines and designated meeting areas deep in the Himalayas to ensure that unexpected incidents do not flare into warfare — both countries have more to gain by increasing trade and cooperation.

Underlying everything else, the Himalayan border region doesn't have the strategic importance it once did.

The 1950s and 1960s were a time when tensions regularly erupted in the region: the Dalai Lama fled across the Himalayas into India after a failed uprising in Tibet in 1959; American-supported Tibetan rebels made small-scale raids into China from secret bases in Nepal; China secretly built a strategically important road linking two of its most restive regions — Tibet and Xinjiang — through a deeply isolated part of India.

But the CIA long ago abandoned the Tibetan rebels, India's support for the Dalai Lama has waned and China now has plenty of roads to Tibet and Xinjiang.

Over the past few years, however, Beijing has pressed ahead with its territorial claims elsewhere, expanding coral outcroppings, constructing schools on rocky shoals and dispatching the occasional fighter jet. It has argued territorial rights with South Korea, Japan, Vietnam and the Philippines. It has urged the United States to stay out of the disagreements, and made clear to all the countries involved that it sees the region as its own sphere of influence.

"We will never trade our core interests or swallow the bitter fruits that undermine our sovereignty, security and development interests," Yang Jiechi, China's top diplomat, said recently at the World Peace Forum.

But if things are peaceful now along the Indo-Chinese border, plenty on both sides believe trouble could flare anew.

Willy Lam, a political scientist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, noted India has become the world's largest arms buyer as it tries to catch up to China's growing military might.

"Although both sides have been very scrupulous and careful not to produce new incidents, the prospects for a solution are nowhere in sight," Lam said. "The arms race is going on despite the obvious improvement of economic and financial relations between the two countries."

China's military presence along the border with India has been growing for years, and India has recently rushed to catch up: refurbishing air strips, deploying more armored units and frantically constructing new roads high in the Himalayas.

It's not what you'd expect from true allies. And, many note, that's not what India and China are.

If politics and trade mean they're getting along now, that will almost certainly not last forever, said T.C.A. Rangachari, a former Indian ambassador and longtime China expert.

And the land that doesn't matter today could very well matter tomorrow.

"In 20 years, maybe 30 years," said Rangachari, "things could all be very different."

Overdrive

2015 Lincoln MKC packs luxury onto small frame

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

The four-star 2015 Lincoln MKC all-wheel drive is a fine little SUV and a somewhat larger leap of faith.

The crossover is loaded with style, power and features. It comes with everything but a price that acknowledges Lincoln's recent makeover is still in its early stages.

The new MKC uses the same architecture as the Ford Escape, but it looks and feels nothing like the Ford. The MKC is almost exactly the same size as the Escape, 7.6 inches shorter than the Lincoln MKX and 11.1 inches shorter than the Cadillac SRX.

The 179.2-inch long MKC will compete primarily with small luxury crossovers like the shorter BMW X1 xDrive 3.5i and the new, longer Lexus NX.

The small luxury SUV segment is new. It hasn't sorted itself into clear size categories yet. In addition to the NX and X1, the Land Rover Range Rover Evoque and Mercedes-Benz GLK—7.7 inches and 0.9 inches shorter, respectively—are the MKC's most obvious competitors. At just 168.4 inches long, the Buick Encore is clearly a class smaller than the MKC's cadre.

Car companies and buyers haven't settled on names for small crossovers' size classes. For the moment, at least, I'm calling the MKC, GLK, Evoque and NX compact crossovers. By process of elimination, that makes bigger five-seaters like the MKX, SRX, BMW X3, Lexus RX and Mercedes ML midsize.

The size classifications will sort themselves out. What matters more is that the MKC is an appealing luxury vehicle that might struggle because of an ambitious price range.

MKC prices start at $33,100 for a front-drive model with a 240-hp turbocharged 2.0L four-cylinder engine. All-wheel drive MKCs start at $35,595 with the same engine. A six-speed automatic transmission is standard on all MKCs. Stepping up to a 285-horsepower turbocharged 2.3L four-cylinder engine adds $1,410. The impressive 2.3L is only available with all-wheel drive.

I tested a well-equipped 2.3L MKC that stickered at $47,875. All prices exclude destination charges.

Suggestions that MKC is an overpriced Ford Escape are baseless. The MKC doesn't share any sheet metal with the Escape. A few interior pieces—including its touch screen and steering wheel controls—are the same, but the MKC looks and feels very different from the Ford, as Lincolns should.

Its sleek exterior design, with LED accent lights, sharp creases and flowing curves, looks nothing like the Escape. Nor does the interior, which in my test car featured soft leather, low-gloss wood and a control panel with buttons, switches and dials for climate and audio controls.

The front seat had plenty of passenger space and storage bins. Rear legroom is limited, but the cargo compartment is accommodating. Its 25.2 cubic feet of space behind the rear seat beat the X1, Evoque, NX and GLK.

The terrific 2.3L engine is not available on the Escape. It delivers abundant power—its 305 lb-ft of torque tops BMW's bigger straight-six—for spirited acceleration, easy passing and carefree highway cruising.

The engine turns the MKC into a pocket rocket, delivering a very competitive EPA rating of 18 m.p.g. in the city, 26 on the highway and 21 in combined driving. The combined figure matches the BMW X1 and X3 and Mercedes GLK 350 4Matic. It trails the less powerful Evoque and the NX.

The MKC looks great, has an impressive drivetrain and loads of features, but a small crossover with prices that can brush $50,000 is ambitious of Lincoln. That's the leap of faith.

It may be justified. I enjoyed the Lincoln immensely driving from Detroit to Traverse City, Mich., about 500 miles round trip.

The MKC is a fast, fun highway cruiser, with comfort and convenience features that included good voice recognition, blind spot and cross traffic alerts, adaptive cruise control, a big sunroof, THX audio, automated parking and more.

Despite its price, the MKC just might be the vehicle that begins Lincoln's overdue return to the front ranks of luxury brands.

FORD/MCT
The 2015 Lincoln MKC has comfort and convenience features that include good voice recognition, blind spot and cross traffic alerts, adaptive cruise control, a big sunroof, THX audio, automated parking and more.

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Lincoln MKC AWD

All-wheel-drive, five-passenger small luxury SUV

- Price as tested: $47,875 (excluding destination charge)
- Engine: 2.3L turbocharged 16-valve four-cylinder
- Power: 285 hp @ 5,500 r.p.m.; 305 lb-ft of torque @ 2,750 r.p.m.
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic
- Dimensions
  Wheelbase: 105.9 inches
  Length: 179.2 inches
  Width: 73.4 inches
  Height: 65.2 inches
  Curb weight: 3,989 lbs.
- Rating: 4 (out of four stars)
- Reasons to buy: Performance; looks; features.
- Shortcomings: Lincoln brand image; rear legroom; price.
- EPA fuel economy ratings: 18 mpg city/26 highway/21 combined. Regular gasoline.

MOTORING

Yes, you'll need four new tires

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I just read your article "Wrong tire size is not a solution," where you advised that tires should all be the same size on a Jeep Liberty. I recently blew a tire on my 2011 VW Touareg and had to purchase four new tires because tire stores said they couldn't sell me just one tire due to the vehicle having all-wheel drive. My VW dealer confirmed this. Why wouldn't this apply to the Jeep Liberty as well?

A: With any AWD or 4WD vehicle where power can be applied to all four tires at the same time, the critical issue is tire diameter. All four tires must have the same rolling circumference, meaning each tire rolls the same distance in one complete revolution.

Why? As I explained in the earlier column, any significant differences in tire diameters can generate significant mechanical stress on driveline components. Think of it this way; if you had a solid axle with a different size tire/wheel welded on each end, what would happen when you tried to roll the axle straight forward? Either the larger tire would skid, or the smaller tire would skip. Can you see how this would stress the shaft or axle?

So why do carmakers recommend replacement of all four tires at the same time? Tires are still manufactured one at a time in a mold, so even the same make, model and size tire can vary tire to tire, particularly when manufactured at a different time.

Carmakers are concerned that a single replacement tire may vary enough in diameter to stress the driveline. They're also concerned that traction due to increased tread depth on the new tire could affect handling and braking. I also suspect that part of the four-tire replacement recommendation has something to do with concerns over potential liabilities.

Would the car know that one tire was newer than the others as long as it's the same exact diameter? I don't think so. It may sense a difference in traction due to tread depth difference, particularly in wet/slippery conditions, but not simply that one tire was newer than the others.

One important point to remember is that tire diameter shrinks over tread life. Thus, replacing just one worn/flat tire with a new tire of the same make, model and size could create stress on the driveline due to the larger diameter of the new tire. But as long as all four tires are the same rolling diameter, no damage to the driveline will occur.

Q: Last week I stopped at a gas station to put gas in my 2001 Kawasaki 1200 motorcycle. After choosing how I was going to pay, I grabbed the diesel hose without thinking. I pushed the button for the highest octane gas, not the one for diesel, but diesel fuel came out anyway and I filled the tank. I went about half a mile before the engine began to balk and I realized what I had done. A repair shop is estimating a cost of up to $1,000. Does this seem reasonable? Can't they just drain the tank and carburetors and refill it with gas?

A: Considering the age and value of the bike, I'd sure try that first. In addition, I'd open the draincocks on the carbs, route drain hoses safely into a container and completely flush the fuel system from tank through gascock/filter and carbs with gasoline. It may take several flushes to clear the system, but I would think this would get you back on the road. Change the engine oil, as well.

It might be a good idea to keep the first few outings close to home and carry your cellphone.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.

Tesla on the move in California and China

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Tesla Motors is expanding its presence in Southern California, and in China.

The company opened a new "store" Friday in Pasadena, increasing its SoCal footprint.

The Pasadena retail outlet for the Palo Alto-based electric car company joins other area locations.

Tesla also confirmed Friday that it would build 400 new charging points in 120 cities in China, and 20 new supercharging points in 20 cities.

All the charging points will be free to customers, Tesla said.

Sales of the electric vehicles have begun recently in China, where Tesla will be partnering with China Unicom to build the new charging stations.

Tesla says it had already opened more than 200 charging points across China.

Life & Style

ALS Ice Bucket Challenge arrives in North Korea

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—It's pretty hard to find a novel way to do the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge by now, but two-time Grammy-winning rapper Pras Michel, a founding member of the Fugees, has done it—getting his dousing in the center of North Korea's capital on Sunday.

Pras had two buckets of ice water dumped on his head along Pyongyang's Taedong River, much to the surprise and bewilderment—and laughter—of North Koreans out for a stroll or some fishing on their day off.

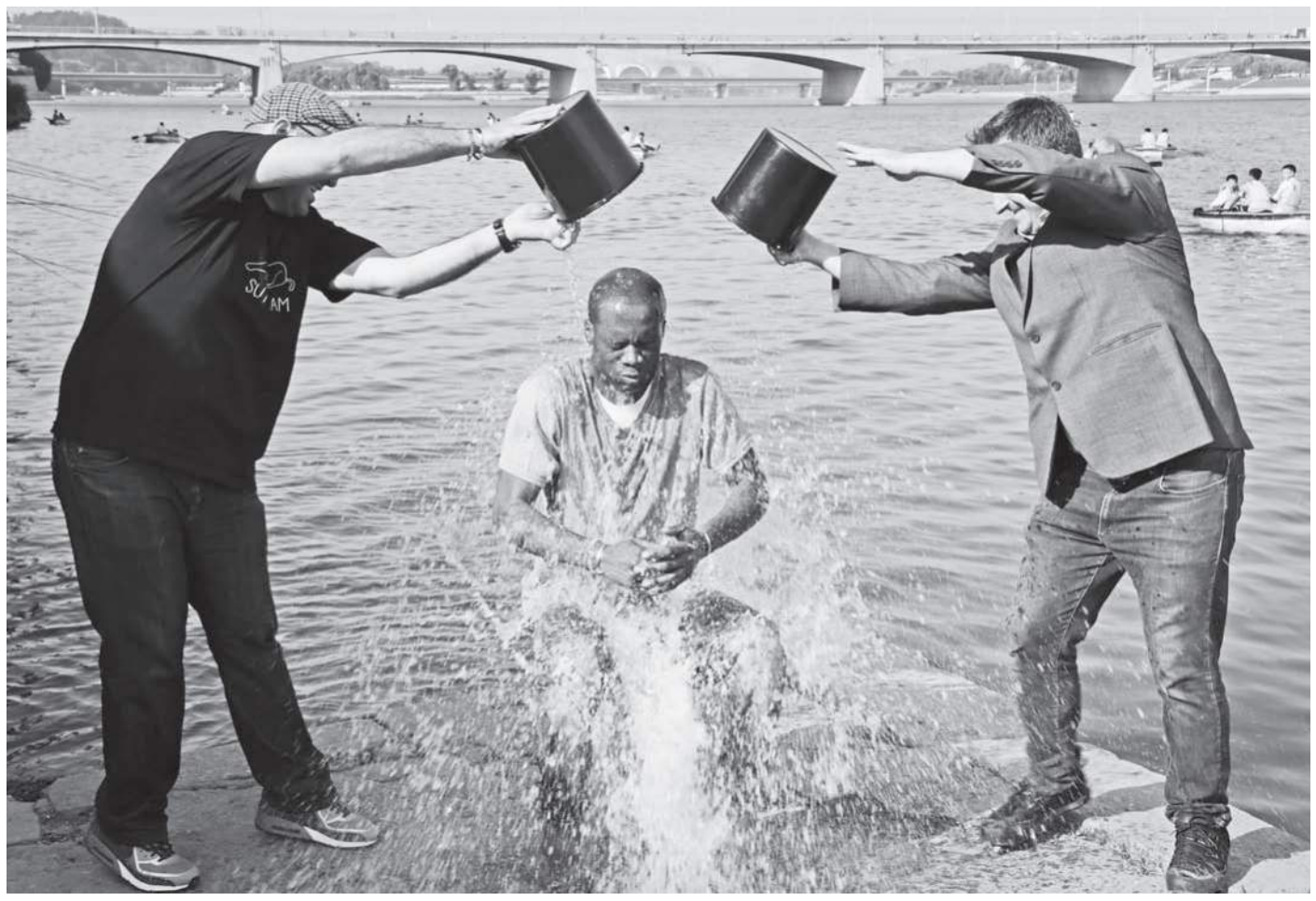
The American rapper and documentary filmmaker said he wanted to join in the immensely popular charity challenge and thought Pyongyang—where the ice bucket craze is unknown—would be the perfect place to do it.

"I thought I'd put a little twist to it," he told The Associated Press. "When we go to places, my crew, we stick out. You can tell instantly these guys aren't from this neck of the woods. But the people have been good to us."

He said he passed on the challenge to four people, including former bandmate Lauryn Hill and Britain's Prince Harry.

More than 3 million people around the world have joined in the challenge, which has raised more than $100 million for the ALS Association. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive illness that hits the nerves and the brain and can lead to paralysis and death. There is no cure, though a treatment now available can extend the life expectancy for its sufferers.

Pras, in North Korea to watch a pro wrestling exhibition and "explore," said he is currently working on several projects, including "Sweet Mickey for Prezidan," a documentary about Haiti's presidential election that is due out by the end of the year.



AP

Two-time Grammy award winning rapper and a founding member of the Fugees, Pras Michel, gets doused by his friends for the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014 in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Israel's 'The Farewell Party' finds humor in death

VENICE, Italy (AP)—With dozens of films jostling for attention at the Venice Film Festival, it takes originality to make an impact. Two Israeli filmmakers have done it by refusing to accept that death is no laughing matter.

"The Farewell Party" centers on a group of Jerusalem retirement-home residents who create a euthanasia machine to put a dying friend out of his misery—and then face a moral dilemma when others come seeking the same service.

The movie treats assisted suicide—illegal in Israel and many other countries—with large doses of comedy, an idea some may find off-putting. But directors Sharon Maymon and Tal Granit insist that the movie's unusual tone, with shoots of laughter and absurdity illuminating the darkness, simply reflects real life.

Maymon said the seed of the film was the death of his ex-boyfriend's elderly grandmother.

"We felt like death released her from pain and suffering—but then the paramedics came into the house and tried to resuscitate her for half an hour," the director said during an interview in Venice. "They were fighting for her life like she was 16 years old. It was so absurd, and from this absurd moment the idea came.

"There was a funny moment when her son told the paramedics: `If you wake her up, you are taking her with you.'"

The directors know not everyone will find that funny. Granit said some people had been scandalized by the idea for their film.

"They told us, `How can you laugh about such a thing?'" she said.

"But we really believed in this movie, what it says. It's very important for us to raise these questions."

And, she said, "We love to take risks."

Maymon and Granit have a record of tackling tough social issues with humor in their three previous shorts and one feature, "Mortgage," about a couple battling to save their home at any cost.

The script for "The Farewell Party" won the "best pitch" award at the Berlin Film Festival, but finding a producer proved tricky in Germany, where many oppose assisted suicide because of its association with Nazi euthanasia programs.

Even when the money was in place, casting also had its glitches.

AP

Directors Tal Granit, left, and Sharon Maymon laugh during an interview with The Associated Press for their film The Farewell Party, during the 71st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014.

The protagonists in "The Farewell Party" are played by well-known Israeli actors, including veteran comedian Ze'ev Revah as Yehezkel, the amateur inventor of the mercy-killing machine.

Maymon said Revah consulted his rabbi before agreeing to take the part. Some other actors didn't show up for auditions.

"It was very hard for them to deal with this subject because they are old and they felt that it's too close for them," he said.

Israel's film industry is vibrant for a country its size, but the Israeli-Palestinian conflict sometimes shadows its productions on the international stage.

Another Israeli-funded film at the festival, "Villa Touma," is at the center of a political spat after Israeli Arab director Suha Arraf submitted it as a Palestinian entry, sparking calls in Israel for the director to give the Israeli money back.

Israeli scripts have been the basis of several Hollywood hits, however, including the television series "Homeland."

Maymon's last feature, the sumo-wrestling comedy "A Matter of Size," is being remade in Hollywood, and it's easy to imagine "The Farewell Party" getting the same treatment. The international audience in Venice reacted warmly; the Hollywood Reporter called in a charming film that approached its subject "with wisdom, sensitivity and a welcome strain of humor."

It also offers plum roles for older actors. The main cast members do everything from pratfalls to poignant exchanges and even have a nude scene.

And, the directors say, the film's themes are universal.

"It talks about friendship and about love and about separation from someone you love," Granit said. "Our story tells an international story that anyone can relate to."

Cee Lo Green enters no contest plea in drug case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cee Lo Green pleaded no contest Friday to one felony count of furnishing ecstasy to a woman during a 2012 dinner in Los Angeles and was sentenced to serve probation and community service.

The Grammy-winning singer also entered a special plea in which he maintained his innocence in the case and that prevents his no contest plea from being used against him in civil court. The drug case could be used against Green in criminal court if he faces another drug offense.

Superior Court Judge Mark Young sentenced the 39-year-old singer to three years of formal probation and 45 days of community service. Green, whose real name is Thomas DeCarlo Callaway, will be allowed to travel for work and permitted to see a private physician for drug and alcohol counseling, the judge said.

Green

Green also can serve his community service through MusiCares Foundation, an affiliate of the organization that presents the Grammy Awards.

Green entered the plea just before a scheduled preliminary hearing during which prosecutors would have had to show there was enough evidence for the case to go to trial.

Prosecutors rejected a rape charge against Green when he was charged with the felony drug charge in October 2013. His attorney Blair Berk has said Green had consensual sex with the woman he gave ecstasy to during the July 2012 dinner.

No civil case has been filed over the incident in Los Angeles, court records show.

Green won a Grammy for the hit "Forget You" and performed as part of the duo Gnarls Barkley. He appeared as a judge on the NBC competition show "The Voice," but left the show after he was charged.

Joan Rivers' daughter: I'm keeping fingers crossed

NEW YORK (AP)—Joan Rivers' loved ones said Sunday that they remain hopeful about her recovery three days after she went into cardiac arrest at a doctor's office.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed," her daughter, Melissa Rivers, said in a statement, thanking people who have expressed support for the 81-year-old comedian. Rivers on Friday described her mother's condition as serious.

Joan Rivers was taken to Mount Sinai Hospital on Thursday, a day after she spoke at an employee event at Time Inc. in New York. Spectators there said she had appeared to be well.

Rivers is the host of "Fashion Police" on E! and presides over an online talk show, "In Bed With Joan." She also co-stars with her daughter on the WEtv reality show "Joan & Melissa: Joan Knows Best?"

Two of her "Fashion Police" co-stars tweeted their well-wishes to Joan Rivers and her family Saturday.

"Praying for Joan Rivers and Mel Rivers," Giuliana Rancic tweeted. "Even though Joan's the strongest woman I know, every single prayer counts. I love you, Joan."

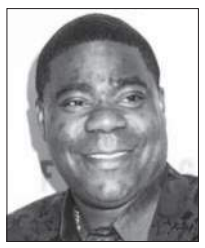
"4 the first time in years I got down on my knees & prayed tonight!" Kelly Osbourne wrote. "I encourage U 2 do the same 4 Joan Rivers my grandma!"

AP

In this Jan. 19, 2012, file photo, Joan Rivers attends a screening of the Season 2 premiere of WE TV's "Joan & Melissa: Joan Knows Best?" in New York.

Comedian Tracy Morgan still struggling after crash

TRENTON, New Jersey (AP)—An attorney for Tracy Morgan says the former "Saturday Night Live" actor is having a tough time recovering from a June accident on the New Jersey Turnpike that left a fellow comedian dead.



Morgan

Attorney Benedict Morelli tells The Star-Ledger newspaper that Morgan relies on a wheelchair and it may be months before he can fully walk again. Morelli says Morgan appears to be making progress, but it will be a month before he is assessed "cognitively."

Morgan broke his leg, nose and several ribs in a six-car accident involving his limo bus, and comedian James McNair was killed. The bus was struck by a Wal-Mart truck.

The truck driver has pleaded not guilty to vehicular homicide and assault by auto.

Morgan accused Wal-Mart of negligence in a federal lawsuit.

AP

In this April 16, 2014, file photo released by ABC shows co-host Jenny McCarthy with her fiance Donnie Wahlberg after she announced her engagement on the daytime series "The View," in New York.

Donnie Wahlberg, Jenny McCarthy tie the knot

NEW YORK (AP)—Donnie Wahlberg's "Favorite Girl" Jenny McCarthy is now his wife.

The couple tied the knot Sunday in a ceremony outside Chicago, McCarthy's publicist, Brad Cafarelli, confirmed.

It's the second marriage for both 45-year-old Wahlberg and 41-year-old Mccarthy.

Wahlberg still performs with his boy band New Kids on the Block and also stars in the CBS police drama "Blue Bloods." He also appears in an A&E reality show about a family restaurant called Wahlburgers that's run by his brother Paul.

He has two sons from his first marriage.

McCarthy recently left "The View" and now hosts a radio show on SiriusXM. She has a son from her first marriage.

The couple began dating last year.

Celebrity chef charged with intoxicated driving

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)—Celebrity chef Todd English, who has opened restaurants around the country and written multiple cookbooks, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated, authorities said.

Police in Southampton said English was arrested Sunday morning on a county road on Long Island. He made a court appearance later in the day, and authorities said he posted $1,500 bail.

The circumstances of the arrest were unavailable.

English's lawyer, Edward Burke Jr., said they "adamantly deny the allegations" and "look forward to addressing this matter in a court of law."

The chef, whose full name is William Todd English, is the creative force behind a number of restaurants around the country, including Olives, Figs and Fish Club. He also has been a regular on television programs including "Iron Chef USA."

English

English has written several cookbooks and has been honored by the James Beard Foundation for excellence and achievement in cuisine.

In September 2009, his former fiancee was charged with assault, and authorities accused her of hitting him with a metal wrist watch, leaving him needing multiple stitches. The couple had been scheduled to get married, but English called the wedding off.

A judge in January 2010 closed the case without prison or probation based on her going through anger management and performing community service.

Chelsea Clinton quits as NBC News reporter

NEW YORK (AP)—Chelsea Clinton said Friday she is quitting her job as a reporter at NBC News, citing increased work at the Clinton Foundation and the imminent birth of her first child.

Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton's daughter had been working at the network since 2011, sporadically doing feature stories on people or organizations doing public-spirited work. Politico magazine reported earlier this year that NBC was paying her $600,000 a year.

"I loved watching the 'Making a Difference' stories about remarkable people and organizations making a profound difference in our country and our world," Clinton said in a statement posted on her Facebook page. "I am grateful NBC gave me the opportunity to continue this important legacy."

She was initially hired to do stories for Brian Williams' "Rock Center" newsmagazine, but that program was canceled. Her work occasionally appeared on NBC's "Nightly News."

Two Clinton stories that aired in January were on education programs targeting the underprivileged. She's done stories on a school program for jailed teenagers named after Maya Angelou, an Arkansas tutoring program and a restaurant chain that donates leftover food to the needy. Her story on actor Jeff Bridges' work on childhood hunger aired Aug. 1, and another story about a school lunch program for poor children in New Mexico is scheduled to air this Sunday.

"Chelsea's storytelling inspired people across the country and showcased the real power we have as individuals to make a difference in our communities," said Alex Wallace, senior vice president at NBC News.

Her exit removes some potential awkwardness for the network if her mother runs for president in 2016. NBC made certain to keep Clinton off the air around the time her mother was making media appearances to promote a book, to avoid any appearance of conflict. NBC also received some criticism when stories about her salary appeared; the network didn't comment on the reports.

Using mother tongue makes family conversation difficult

DEAR ABBY: My son married an educated professional woman from another country. When their twins were born, my daughter-in-law immersed them in her native language so it would become their mother tongue. Although I understand and respect the benefits of being bilingual, this caused a lot of communication gaps and frustration between us and the grandkids during their early years.

They attend a bilingual elementary school now, and their English is superb and communication between us is great. The problem is, when we are together, my daughter-in-law speaks to her children exclusively in her native language. My son understands the conversation, but my husband and I do not know what is being said. We think this is rude and inconsiderate.

Are we being overly sensitive, or is this common practice in families with multiple languages? Our relationship with our daughter-in-law is polite and cordial, but not close or intimate. Any advice?

LEFT OUT IN FLORIDA

DEAR LEFT OUT: This is not unusual in multilingual families, and I agree that it is inconsiderate. Have you spoken to your son and daughter-in-law about how this makes you feel? If you haven't, you should, because she may not be deliberately trying to make you feel excluded.

When you raise the subject, choose your words and tone carefully. Because if you don't, your relationship with your daughter-in-law could become a lot less cordial than it is.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 55-year-old gay male who has been with my now-spouse, "Owen," in a loving, committed relationship since 2005. While earlier we could not legally marry, in 2006 we had a commitment ceremony bringing together close friends and family to acknowledge and celebrate our relationship. In 2013, Owen and I were finally able to legally marry in California.

My dilemma comes from people who don't know what to call us. People often refer to my spouse as my "friend" or "partner." At times I say nothing, but more often than not, I find myself saying, "Oh, you mean my HUSBAND." Some of them thank me for the clarification; others just look at me with a blank stare.

Owen never corrects them because he feels it isn't his place. I feel it's my responsibility to do so, first so as to not play down the significance of our relationship, but also to educate these people. Do you think this is inappropriate?

MARRIED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MARRIED: Not at all. The people who refer to you and Owen as "partners" and "friends" are using terminology that is evolving because marriage among same-sex couples is still relatively new. As it becomes more commonplace, that will change. In the meantime, it's completely appropriate for you and Owen to speak up.

P.S. For any reader who may not already know, gay men refer to their spouse as their husband and lesbians refer to theirs as their wife.

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

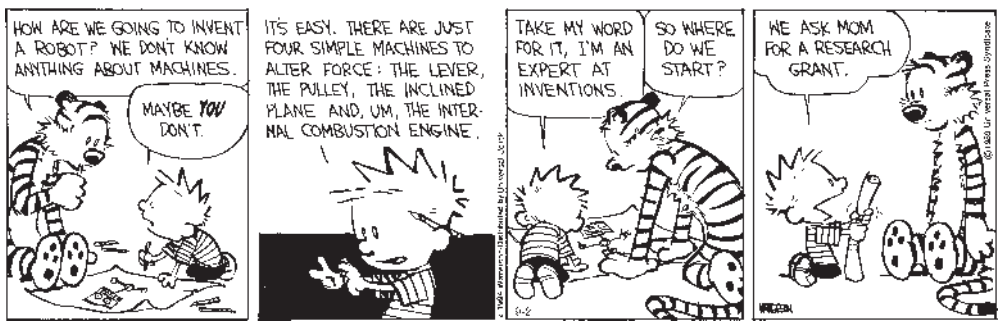
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

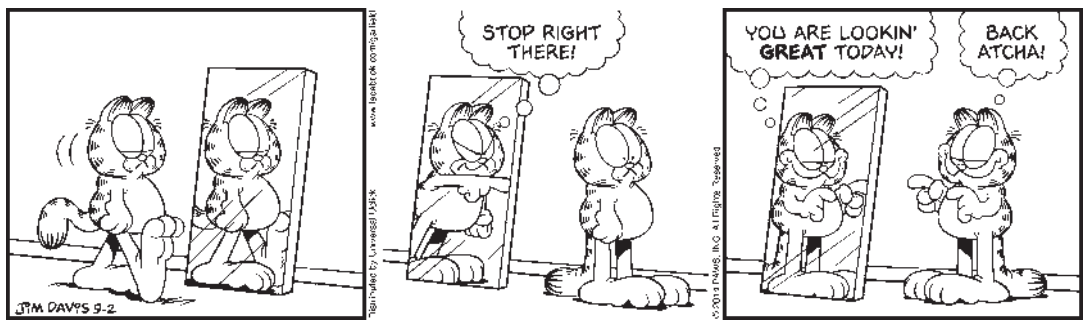
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW ARE WE GOING TO INVENT A ROBOT? WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MACHINES.
MAYBE YOU DON'T.
IT'S EASY. THERE ARE JUST FOUR SIMPLE MACHINES TO ALTER FORCE: THE LEVER, THE PULLEY, THE INCLINED PLANE AND, UM, THE INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE.
TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, I'M AN EXPERT AT INVENTIONS.
SO WHERE DO WE START?
WE ASK MOM FOR A RESEARCH GRANT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU..?
I'M WORKING ON MY LOOK.
TIP TYPE
THE GREAT MYSTERY WRITERS DIDN'T WRITE IN CARGO SHORTS AND FLANNEL SHIRTS.
TAP TAP
SO, YOU... OKAY.
"DRESS FOR THE JOB YOU WANT."
TYPE TAP
SO YOU WANT TO BE A CABARET EMCEE?
FUNNY. HAVE YOU SEEN MY JODHPURS?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IS YOUR BEER WARM?
MY BEER is WARM!
WOW! THAT GIRL HAS FAT ANKLES!
WHEN ENO HAS HIS WIRELESS EARBUDS IN, HE CAN'T TELL HOW LOUD HE'S TALKING.
MY ARM-PITS ARE ITCHY!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

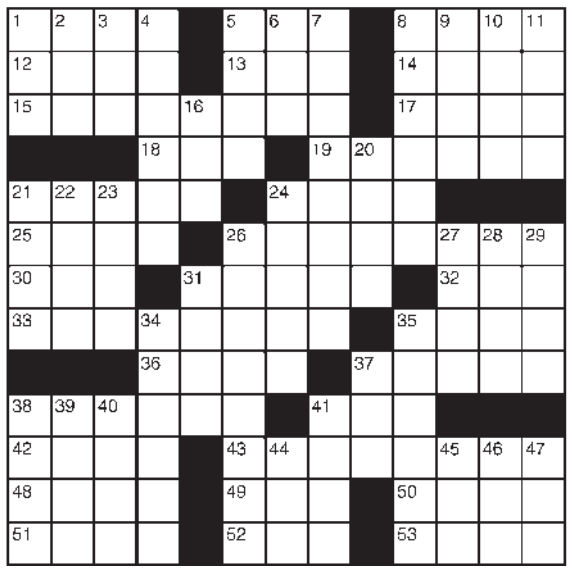
ACROSS
1 Platter
5 Pea container
8 Run
12 Sandwich cookie
13 "Norma —"
14 Hodge-podge
15 Make over
17 Clinton's veep
18 Non-clerical
19 Shot on the green
21 Bed linen
24 Small plateau
25 Henry VIII's Catherine
26 Deserter
30 Submachine gun
31 External
32 Beehive stuff
33 Famous
35 Arm bone
36 Stein and Stiller
37 Type of tea from India
38 Dangerous fly
41 Brewery product
42 Tittle
43 Kidney-shaped
48 Revealing skirt
49 Grecian vessel
50 Eye layer
51 Verve
52 Before (Pref.)
53 Gentlewoman

DOWN
1 "Le Coq —"
2 Anger
3 D.C. fig.
4 Ice chest
5 Importune
6 Feedbag tidbit
7 Dug down further
8 GI ID
9 Oodles
10 Paddock papa
11 Tackled the weeds
16 Cistern
20 Addict
21 Boot attachment
22 Confused state
23 Ms. Brockovich
24 Apportions (out)
26 Second-place contender
27 Piercing tools
28 Comical Carvey
29 Physical
31 Has bills
34 Get
35 Handy
37 "The Greatest"
38 Fourth dimension
39 Dirt
40 Sicilian volcano
41 Elizabeth's daughter
44 Blunder
45 Eggs
46 Scarlet
47 Has permission

Solution time: 22 mins.

D	A	D	■	O	C	T	E	T	■	C	■	S
Q	D	F	■	C	I	A	R	A	■	O	H	O
C	O	M	P	L	A	I	N	T	■	M	O	M
■	■	■	■	O	T	■	S	T	E	P	P	E
D	E	C	O	C	T	■	T	O	D	O	■	■
A	G	O	■	K	E	G	■	O	A	S	■	S
D	O	M	E	■	R	E	S	■	M	I	R	E
A	S	P	I	C	■	M	E	H	■	T	■	C
■	■	A	R	I	L	■	M	O	D	E	S	T
D	I	N	F	R	O	■	I	N	A	■	■	■
A	N	I	■	C	O	M	P	E	N	U	■	A
I	D	O	■	U	S	U	R	Y	■	A	C	T
S	Y	N	■	S	E	G	O	S	■	B	Y	E

Yesterday's answer 9-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Salma Hayek, 48; Keanu Reeves, 50; Mark Harmon, 63; Terry Bradshaw, 66.

Happy Birthday: Focus on learning, improving your friendships and association with others and exploring new interests that will take your mind off trivial setbacks. Make home improvements and stabilize your position by reorganizing your personal documents. Choose caution over impulse and consider self-deception a possibility regarding personal situations you face. Understanding and patience will be required and maintaining your health will be important. Your numbers are 9, 15, 22, 30, 32, 39, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Enjoy life and all it has to offer. Indulge in events, activities and doing things that interest you, and you will gain knowledge and improve your prospects. Travel will lead to a new adventure. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Financial ventures and opportunities will come from an unusual source. Plan carefully or whatever you gain will slip through your fingers. Stringent policy when it comes to expenditures should be put in place before someone convinces you to spend inappropriately. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Focus on personal gains and improvements, not on those putting demands on you. You aren't likely to get valid information and should make a point of doing your own research. Make changes at home or to your current living arrangement. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't be alarmed by the changes taking place. A strong, stable, responsible approach to work and personal duties will put you in a good position that will bring promising results. Your personal secrets will be revealed if you are too trusting. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Strut your stuff and put on a show. Not everyone will be entertained by your bravado, but it will grab the attention of someone who likes your style and knows how to put your talents to good use. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Invest in education, travel and your community. Don't let emotional issues stop you from following through with your plans. Make a couple of changes to your living quarters to accommodate something you want to pursue. Emotional deception is apparent. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Speak up and ask questions if you are uncertain. Attend an event or activity designed to improve your community. Personal connections made at functions will turn out to be opportune. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Observe how others react to what you say. What you learn will help you avoid making a mistake. Protect against physical illness or injury. Do something to make your domestic surroundings more conducive to the things you enjoy doing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Check out what everyone is doing or saying. Stick to the truth and focus on getting ahead professionally, financially and personally. Positive changes at home will raise your standard of living and lead to a better relationship with someone special. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Ulterior motives are apparent and taking precautions to keep your intentions a secret will be in your best interest. Be ready to counter an unexpected change someone makes at the last minute. Don't let it disrupt your plans. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Say what's on your mind and get what you want in writing. A professional change looks inviting. Your negotiating skills will help you win a position that can lead to greater income. Romance will help bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Avoid emotional confrontations. Concentrate on contracts, settlements and other legal or financial matters that can influence your standard of living, your reputation or your position. Honesty will be a factor regarding an old friend. Lay your cards on the table. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, creative and fun-loving. You are adventuresome and emotional.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		9					6
1	9		6				8	
		5		8		2		
4	5							
		3				5		
							9	7
		8		5		9		
	2				9		1	8
6					4		7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	7	5	3	8	9	6	4	2
4	8	6	2	7	1	3	9	5
9	3	2	6	4	5	8	1	7
6	5	4	1	9	7	2	3	8
8	2	1	4	5	3	7	6	9
7	9	3	8	2	6	4	5	1
5	4	9	7	6	2	1	8	3
2	1	8	5	3	4	9	7	6
3	6	7	9	1	8	5	2	4

Difficulty Level ★ 9/1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOTTERY WINNINGS Solution: 8 letters

F	G	I	F	T	W	Y	T	I	R	A	H	C	M	E
R	Ⓢ	Y	L	I	M	A	F	V	P	O	O	L	A	G
I	Ⓤ	A	L	C	T	H	C	A	Y	A	C	A	N	A
E	Ⓜ	L	V	K	C	O	T	T	A	G	E	I	A	G
N	U	M	B	E	R	S	I	D	S	R	P	M	G	T
D	D	E	B	T	S	U	N	E	E	P	E	B	E	R
S	K	E	T	A	N	O	D	P	O	G	E	A	E	O
E	R	D	A	N	M	A	E	H	R	T	R	N	S	M
U	O	E	A	A	R	E	S	U	S	O	N	K	D	E
Q	W	R	I	G	K	E	L	E	S	I	C	I	O	R
I	T	D	P	E	H	P	S	I	W	O	W	N	S	O
T	R	U	S	T	S	U	V	E	T	A	T	S	E	L
N	A	U	O	R	O	D	T	S	E	V	N	I	X	P
A	O	L	S	H	A	R	E	T	I	R	E	L	A	X
H	C	K	C	E	H	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E

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Advisor, Annuity, Antiques, Artwork, Bank, Cars, Celebrate, Charity, Check, Claim, Clothes, Cottage, Debts, Diamond, Donate, Estate, Explore, Family, Friends, Gift, Housekeeper, Houses, Invest, Manage, Mortgage, Numbers, Pool, Redeem, Relax, Retire, Save, Share, Shopping, Spend, Splurge, Stocks, Sum, Taxes, Ticket, Upgrade, Will, Winner, Wish, Yacht.

Yesterday's Answer: Sieze the Day

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39 or 40 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(3) Cook. Minimum 4 years exp. Wood Village Saipan, Inc. dba Aglaia Island Dinner Contact Tatsuya Kimura at 233-6086.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) COMPUTER USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST
Bachelor's Degree with 5 years' experience. Proficiency in network troubleshooting and configuration, Microsoft Operations System & Server, Linux, Java Programming, AutoCad, and Computer Software and Hardware Troubleshooting.

Respond to N15 Architects by Email to admin@15architects.com

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Call 235-NEWS

Thai Massage Inc.
Is seeking for the following positions:

Beautician or Stylist
- At least 5 years work related experience
- Preferably someone who speaks Japanese

(5) Masseuse
- Certified Masseuse is a plus
- Preferably someone with knowledge in Russian Language

Preferably U.S. Citizens for both positions

Apply in person, we are located at the Victoria Hotel in Garapan (Across American Memorial Park). You may also apply at one of our branch at the Pacific Islands Club.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 – AUTO BODY REPAIRMAN

Remove damaged components of vehicles or heavy equipment using metal- cutting guns, air grinders and wrenches; install replacement parts using wrenches or welding equipment and other related tools. Grind down welds to smooth them, using power grinders and other tools. Fill dents, prime and apply paint using paint spray guns. Remove upholstery, accessories, electrical window and seat operating equipment, and trim to gain access to vehicle or equipment bodies and fenders.

Must have good working knowledge and ability to work with a variety of material including use of tools and equipment used in auto/heavy equipment body fending and painting. Must be able to follow instructions listed on work orders and have the ability to operate equipment and tools safely. Five (5) years minimum related experience in a construction and heavy equipment company or auto body shop.

Interested qualified applicants submit complete application or resume and latest police clearance via e-mail at saipan@aiconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc., PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Closing date: 9/03/2014

WHATZIT Solution: One step at a time

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
$450/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Elite Printing
Tel: 288-2677 • Fax 288-2676

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sales Representative
- High School graduate
- College graduate preferred
- Self motivated, sociable character
- 3 years in printing business
- Preferences: Multilingual-English and Japanese/Korean/Chinese
- Gas allowance

Graphic Design Artist
- High School graduate
- 3 years experience with Illustrator, Photoshop, Indesign.
- Creative, artistic character.
- Printing business experience is preferred.
- Preferences: Multilingual-English and Japanese/Korean/Chinese

Offset Printing Machine Operator
- High school graduate
- 4 years experience in offset color printing. Expert with GTO machines.
- Able to independently operate equipment, routine maintenance and work flexible hours

Interested applicants may send resume to Norma C. Delos Reyes at norma@eliteprintingpacific.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Commercial Cleaner (2)

Job Duties: Cleaning units of condominiums owned or leased by Bridge Capital, LLC and/or its affiliates. Cleaning the office, washing and polishing company cars, washing and ironing clothes. Service, clean and supply restrooms. Mix water and detergents or acids in containers to prepare cleaning solutions according to specifications. Clean building floors and entry ways by sweeping, mopping, scrubbing or vacuuming them. Clean windows, glass partitions, and mirrors using soapy water or other cleaners, sponges and squeegees, chemical cleaners and power equipment in order to prevent damage to floors and fixtures. Monitor condominium security and safety by performing such tasks as making sure the doors are locked and checking electrical appliances ensuring that hazards are not created. Gather and empty trash. Notify managers concerning the need for major repairs or additions to building operating systems. Requisition supplies and equipment needed for cleaning and maintenance duties. Sew and/or repair torn clothes, blankets, sheets and curtains.

Preference: High school diploma or equivalent. Police Clearance required upon interview. Must have own transportation to and from work place. Must have proven ability to work without supervision.

Submit your resume to FT Condo, LLC PMB 1797 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 or email at reneacia.sannicolas@bccnmi.com

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Reporter
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, September 12, 2014.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

OPENING DATE: AUGUST 12, 2014 * CLOSING DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2014 TIME: 4:30 PM
SALARY AT $50,000.00 - $60,000.00 UNGRADED
(Commensurate with education and experience)

"COMPTROLLER"

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

PART-TIME UNIVERSAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
JVA# 2-2014-8

IT&E needs part-time Universal Service Representatives for the Customer Service department. The Universal Service Representative serves as the first line of contact with IT&E customers, receiving and initiating residential, business, government, Internet, and cellular customer contacts by telephone, personal contact and correspondence

Candidates are to have the following minimum qualifications:
- High School Graduate with evidence of computer technical education or training;
- Two years of work experience in a customer service oriented business environment

Candidates must have:
- computer and customer service experience;
- excellent telephone etiquette and English communication skills;
- logical thought process;
- friendly and outgoing personality;

Interested candidates must complete an IT&E application by Wednesday, September 3, 2014 and submit it to IT&E Headquarters building in Susupe.

IT&E Life in Motion

As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, IT&E provides equal opportunity to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, sex/gender, age, religion, veteran status, or disability. IT&E is a Drug Free Workplace.

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Angels trounce A's 8-1 to complete 4-game sweep

AP
Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout, left, congratulates Chris Iannetta, right, along with other teammates after he hit a solo home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014, in Anaheim, Calif. The Angels won 8-1.

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Mike Trout hit his career-high 31st homer and drove in three runs as the Los Angeles Angels finished off a four-game sweep, beating the Oakland Athletics 8-1 Sunday.

Rookie Matt Shoemaker allowed five hits over seven shutout innings as the Angels won their sixth in row for the best record in the majors at 83-53. They shut out the A's for the 29 consecutive innings while opening a five-game lead atop the AL West heading into September.

Trout had a two-run single during a six-run second inning. Chris Iannetta homered and had three hits for Los Angeles, which has won 15 of 19. The A's have lost 14 of 20.

Shoemaker (14-4) won for the sixth time in August and extended his scoreless streak to 23 1-3 innings.

Scott Kazmir (14-7) got just four outs. A's manager Bob Melvin was ejected for arguing balls and strikes after pulling Kazmir.

The Athletics acquired slugger Adam Dunn from the Chicago White Sox before the game.

Mariners 5, Nationals 3

In Seattle, Dustin Ackley homered and drove in four runs as the Seattle Mariners averted a three-game sweep, overcoming a pair of home runs by Bryce Harper to beat Washington.

Nate Schierholz also homered for Washington. The NL East-leading Nationals hit 10 home runs in the series, one short of the Safeco Field record for a three-game set established by Cleveland in 2009.

Washington has lost four of six. Seattle had lost three in a row, and had been 0-11 against the Nationals since the franchise moved from Montreal to Washington for the 2005 season.

The Mariners trailed 3-1 in the fifth when Ackley hit a three-run homer off Tanner Roark (12-9).

Hisashi Iwakuma (13-6) went six innings. In his last 11 starts, he is 8-2 with 72 strikeouts and five walks.

Fernando Rodney gave up a leadoff single to Harper in the ninth before getting his 39th save in 42 chances.

Orioles 12, Twins 8

In Baltimore, J.J. Hardy hit his fourth career grand slam during a seven-run sixth inning, Nelson Cruz connected for his major league-leading 35th home run and Ryan Flaherty also homered, leading Baltimore over Minnesota.

Caleb Joseph had a career-high four hits for the Orioles, who lead the AL East lead by nine games over the Yankees.

Chen Wei-yin (14-4) allowed four runs and eight hits in 6 2-3 innings. Minnesota scored three times in the ninth before Zach Britton served up a double-play ball for his 31st save.

Trevor Plouffe and Danny Santana hit two-run homers for the Twins, who have lost seven of eight.

Ricky Nolasco (5-10) gave up eight runs and 12 hits over five-plus innings.

White Sox 6, Tigers 2

In Chicago, Jose Quintana allowed two runs over seven innings to earn his first win in more than a month as the Chicago White Sox beat Detroit after trading Adam Dunn.

The White Sox sent Dunn to Oakland before the game, ending a disappointing four-year run in Chicago for the veteran slugger.

Adam Eaton doubled twice and scored two runs. Jose Abreu extended his hitting streak to 12 games.

The Tigers held star Miguel Cabrera out of the lineup because of a sore right foot. He left the second game of Saturday's day-night doubleheader and is day to day.

Quintana (7-10) won for the first time since a victory at Detroit on July 29.

Rick Porcello (15-9) went 6 2-3 innings and gave up six runs, three earned. Detroit made a season-high four errors.

Blue Jays 4, Yankees 3

In Toronto, Jose Bautista homered for the fifth straight game as the Toronto Blue Jays erased a three-run deficit to beat the New York Yankees.

Derek Jeter had a chance to tie it for the Yankees in the ninth inning. With the sellout crowd of 45,678 on its feet, Jeter popped up with a runner on third for the final out in his last regular-season at-bat in Toronto.

Brett Gardner finished a single shy of the cycle, but New York lost its second straight. Gardner had a big opportunity in the ninth, grounding out with a runner on second to bring up Jeter.

Edwin Encarnacion and Melky Cabrera also homered for Toronto. J.A. Happ (9-8) won for the first time in seven starts and Casey Janssen got his 20th save in 24 chances.

Brandon McCarthy (5-4) allowed four runs and five hits in six innings, losing for the fourth time in five starts.

Rays 3, Red Sox 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Clay Buchholz threw a three-hitter to stop his string of seven starts without a win, leading the Boston Red Sox over Tampa Bay.

Buchholz (6-8) walked none and struck out six. Only one runner reached second base during his second shutout this season and the sixth of his career.

The right-hander's previous win came over Kansas City on July 18, five days after he tossed a three-hitter in an 11-0 win against Houston. He was 0-3 in that span.

Alex Cobb (9-7) gave up two runs and seven hits over 6 1-3 innings and took his first loss in two months. He had been 7-0 in his previous 11 starts.

Astros 3, Rangers 2

In Houston, Matt Dominguez hit a tying homer and Jose Altuve's fourth hit drove in the go-ahead run as the Houston Astros rallied in the eighth inning to beat Texas.

Dominguez connected off reliever Neal Cotts (2-8) with one out in the eighth to make it 2-all. One out, one pitching change and three batters later, Altuve singled home Jake Marisnick.

Altuve also doubled twice in matching his career high for hits. Dominguez had an RBI single earlier in the game.

Jose Veras (3-1) got the win and Chad Qualls posted his 16th save.

Braves 1, Marlins 0

In Atlanta, Alex Wood struck out 12 in eight dominant innings and Evan Gattis homered to help Atlanta beat Miami.

The Marlins had gone 60 games without getting shut out, the longest active streak in the majors.

The Braves, who have won four of five and 11 of 15, remained 1½ games out of the second NL wild-card spot. Craig Kimbrel earned his major league-high 41st save in 45 chances.

Wood (10-10) matched his career high in strikeouts for the second time this month. The left-hander gave up five hits and walked none, escaping a bases-loaded jam in the sixth by striking out Giancarlo Stanton and Casey McGehee.

Gattis hit his 21st homer in the second off Nathan Eovaldi (6-10), who dropped his fourth straight start.

Giants 15, Brewers 5

In San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval hit a two-run homer among his three RBIs and finished a double short of the cycle, powering San Francisco past Milwaukee to match a season high with its sixth straight win.

Madison Bumgarner (16-9) followed up his one-hit gem Tuesday against Colorado with seven strikeouts in six innings to win his third straight start.

Hunter Pence extended his NL-leading hitting streak to 13 games with a third-inning RBI double, the first of his four hits. He doubled again in the fifth and added a seventh-inning triple.

The Brewers lost their season-high fifth straight road game and dropped into a tie for the NL Central lead with St. Louis. It's the first time since July 20 that they don't have sole possession of first place.

Milwaukee has held at least a share of the lead every day since April 5.

Milwaukee was outscored 31-8 in the series. Kyle Lohse (12-8) allowed seven runs and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings for his fourth defeat in five decisions.

Cardinals 9, Cubs 6

In St. Louis, Matt Holliday hit his third home run in two games and broke an eighth-inning tie with a two-run single, rallying St. Louis past Chicago.

Holliday had three hits and four RBIs for the Cardinals, who tied Milwaukee for first place in the NL Central.

St. Louis second baseman Kolten Wong homered but left in the eighth after falling backward when he tried to catch a popup in short right field. He appeared to hurt his head and shoulder, and was replaced by Pete Kozma.

Kozma led off the bottom half with a double, his second hit in four big league at-bats this year.

Pat Neshek (7-1) earned the win and Trevor Rosenthal got his 40th save in 45 chances.

Carlos Villanueva (5-7) took the loss.

Dodgers 7, Padres 1

In San Diego, Ryu Hyun-jin came off the disabled list to pitch four-hit ball over seven innings, and Matt Kemp singled in the go-ahead run as Los Angeles avoided a three-game sweep in San Diego.

Ryu (14-6) struck out seven and walked none while allowing one run in his first start since a loss at Atlanta on Aug. 13, when he hurt his right hip. Ryu improved to 4-0 lifetime against the Padres.

The seven runs were one more than the Dodgers scored in their previous three games combined. The NL West leaders lost by one run in extra innings in the first two games of the series.

Adrian Gonzalez had four hits. He also scored the first of the Dodgers' four runs in the eighth.

The Padres' four-game winning streak was snapped. Eric Stults (6-15) tied for the major league lead with his career-high 15th loss.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 2

In Phoenix, Chase Anderson pitched six strong innings in Arizona's victory over Colorado.

Anderson (8-6) gave up five hits and one run while matching his career high with eight strikeouts. Nolan Reimold's first career pinch-hit homer in the seventh was the decisive hit. His two-run shot highlighted a four-run inning that broke the game open.

Charlie Blackmon led off the fourth with a home run, the only blemish against Anderson — who is 3-0 in three starts against the Rockies in his career.

Aaron Hill tripled, doubled and singled, scoring twice with two RBIs.

Jorge De La Rosa (13-10) took the loss, the Rockies' fifth in six games.

Reds 3, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Chris Heisey hit two home runs, including a tiebreaking shot in the ninth inning, and Johnny Cueto overcame an early jolt to earn his 16th win as Cincinnati beat Pittsburgh.

Heisey's solo drive with one out in the ninth off Jared Hughes (6-5) helped the Reds avoid getting swept at PNC Park. Heisey began the day with five homers in 229 at-bats this year.

Cueto (16-8) gave up a home run to Josh Harrison on his first pitch. Jordy Mercer homered off Cueto in the second for a 2-0 lead.

Cueto wound up pitching eight innings and tied Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw for the major league lead in victories. Cueto worked around nine hits, striking out six and walking one.

Aroldis Chapman struck two in a perfect ninth for his 29th save.

Wozniacki outlasts Sharapova, in US Open quarters

NEW YORK (AP)—Caroline Wozniacki trusts her stamina so much that she plans to return to New York in two months to run a marathon.

Maria Sharapova, usually the one wearing down opponents in the third set, sure couldn't keep up on a steamy Sunday at the U.S. Open. Wozniacki won 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 in 2 hours, 37 minutes to get back to her first Grand Slam quarterfinal in more than two years—and get back in the headlines for reasons other than her personal life.

"The season for me has been a little bit up and down," she said in quite an understatement, "and it's so nice to kind of start feeling like I'm playing the way I want to."

Because of the heat, the players received a 10-minute break before the final set; Sharapova returned to the court late, arguing with the chair umpire after receiving a time violation warning. Perhaps sensing that she was fresher than the five-time major champion, Wozniacki later complained that Sharapova was dawdling between points.

Her tardiness seemed to swing the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd's support squarely in Wozniacki's favor. When the 10th-seeded Dane broke Sharapova at love to go up 3-1 in the final set, she got a standing ovation from the fans and waved her arms to egg them on. Sharapova had appeared to hit a winner three times on that game's final point only for Wozniacki to somehow chase down the ball. Finally, Sharapova put a volley into the net.

Wozniacki mixed in just enough aggression with her signature defense to keep the pressure on Sharapova in the final set.

"She's very good at getting a lot of balls back and making you hit another one," Sharapova said. "In the end, I went for a little too much."

She insisted the conditions didn't bother her. Sharapova had been 17-6 in three-set matches this year, including her come-from-behind second-round victory here.

The fifth-seeded Sharapova's loss leaves No. 1 Serena Williams as the only woman remaining of the top six. Ninth-seeded Jelena Jankovic was also upset, losing 7-6 (6), 6-3 to 17-year-old Swiss Belinda Bencic.

AP

Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, reacts after defeating Maria Sharapova, of Russia, during the fourth round of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014, in New York.

With mentor Martina Hingis cheering from the stands, Bencic became the youngest U.S. Open quarterfinalist since Hingis herself in 1997.

After a sloppy first set, Sharapova was painting the lines in the second. Wozniacki seemed to spend most of it watching in dismay as one of Sharapova's 22 winners whizzed by.

Wozniacki said she told herself before the third set to go for her shots.

"If I'm going to lose," she recalled thinking, "at least I'm going to do it with dignity."

She closed out the match by breaking Sharapova's serve again with a backhand winner. About a half-hour later, thunderstorms halted play with second-seeded Roger Federer down a break in the first set to Marcel Granollers.

Federer acknowledged the two-hour delay helped him regroup. While Granollers won the first set, Federer dominated the rest of the way, winning 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

Unlike the women's draw, the men's side didn't lose a top-10 player until Sunday, when fourth-seeded David Ferrer was upset by Gilles Simon in the third round 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3. Sixth-seeded Tomas Berdych and No. 7 Grigor Dimitrov also advanced.

Dominic Thiem, 20, made his first Grand Slam round of 16 with a straight-set win over 19th-seeded Feliciano Lopez. Another first was achieved in the women's draw by Peng Shuai, who had never been to a major quarterfinal before beating 14th-seeded Lucie Safarova 6-3, 6-4.

Wozniacki will next face 13th-seeded Sara Errani, who ended the run of qualifier Mirjana Lucic-Baroni with a three-set victory.

As a 19-year-old, Wozniacki made the 2009 U.S. Open final, losing to Kim Clijsters, and reached No. 1 in the world the next year. But she hadn't been back to a Grand Slam quarterfinal since the 2012 Australian Open.

In the meantime, she was best known for getting engaged to star golfer Rory McIlroy —then getting dumped in late May after wedding invitations had gone out.

Wozniacki lost in the first round at the French Open soon thereafter and was upset in the fourth round at Wimbledon. She had been playing much better since, though, winning her first title in nine months at Istanbul then dropping a pair of three-set matches to Williams.

Wozniacki also announced a month ago that she planned to run the New York City Marathon on Nov. 2 for charity, somehow squeezing in training during a busy fall season. Seems to be working out well mentally and physically on the tennis court.

"Kind of clears my head," she said of the extra running. "I feel more free when I go on court."

Wozniacki plans to stick around New York after the U.S. Open to attend Fashion Week—including her pal Williams' show—and get in some running in Central Park. The marathon prep has gone on hiatus the last few days, though.

As Wozniacki deadpanned, "I have a pretty big tournament here that I kind of want to try and win."

Russell Henley takes a 1-shot lead at Deutsche Bank

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—Russell Henley doesn't get into contention as much as he'd like, though he is tough to beat when he's anywhere near the lead.

Rory McIlroy seems to be there all the time.

They were among a host of contenders Sunday at the Deutsche Bank Championship, setting up the second straight week in the FedEx Cup playoffs that the final round resembles more like a free-for-all.

The difference at the TPC Boston is the presence of McIlroy so high on the leaderboard.

Henley ran off five birdies in a seven-hole stretch around the turn on his way to a 6-under 65, giving him a one-shot lead over Billy Horschel going into a Labor Day finish loaded with possibilities.

Ten players were separated by four shots. Six of them already have won on the PGA Tour this season.

And one of them—McIlroy—has won the biggest events.

McIlroy was dialed in with his swing and shot a 7-under 64 to get within two shots of the lead. He played with Chris Kirk, who also shot a 64 with birdies on his last two holes - a chip-in for birdie on a shot that would have gone 10 feet by the hole had it not banged into the pin, and an eagle putt that stopped an inch short on the 18th.

"I've been in this position quite a lot recently," McIlroy said. "So I know how it's going to feel tomorrow."

Henley was at 12-under 201. He will play in the final group with Horschel, who birdied his last three holes for a 67.

Henley can look as good as anyone, and then he can disappear. He won the Sony Open last year in his first PGA Tour event as a rookie last year, and never seriously contended again. He won the Honda Classic in March in a four-man playoff that included McIlroy, and since then has missed eight cuts and has only two finishes in the top 20.

"I think I'm just still figuring it all out," Henley said. "I feel like I've been working really hard on my ball-striking to keep the ball more in front of me. I always feel pretty good with my putter. The other thing I have to work on is my attitude, and not be so hard on myself."

Jason Day, who started Sunday tied with Ryan Palmer, reached 12 under with a short birdie putt on the 13th hole. But he missed a short par putt on the 14th and hooked his tee shot into high grass and had to pitch out, leading to another bogey on the 15th. Day also failed to birdie the par-5 18th and shot 69.

Palmer took bogey on two of the par 5s and shot 71 to fall four shots behind.

McIlroy won the British Open, a World Golf Championship and the PGA Championship to assert himself at No. 1 in the world. He is coming off a pedestrian week at The Barclays—at least by his standards—where he started with a 74 and could never catch up.

So a round like 64 didn't surprise him.

"It feels normal," McIlroy said. "It feels like it's what I'm supposed to do. It's my job to go out there and shoot good scores. I'm not getting too excited about it. I've got a lot of work to do tomorrow if I want to win this tournament."

Henley is one round away at securing his spot in the Tour Championship, and perhaps giving U.S. captain Tom Watson one more person to consider for a Ryder Cup picks. But that one round seems far away considering the leaderboard, especially with McIlroy.

"He's obviously a tough guy to beat," Henley said. "But like I said, there's a lot of tough guys to beat. Rory has had a heck of a run and I'm sure he'll continue that."

Horschel is at No. 82 in the FedEx Cup and came to the Deutsche Bank hopeful of moving into the top 70 to advance to the BMW Championship next week. Now he's in the final group and adjusting his goals. He emerged late with a tap-in birdie at the 16th, a tough 12-footer on the 17th and a wedge to 5 feet on the final hole.

Webb Simpson, among those under Ryder Cup consideration, overcame a double bogey to post a 68 and was three shots behind. Keegan Bradley also is in the hunt for one of the three captain's picks. He made only two birdies on a soft day for scoring and had a 69, leaving him four shots behind.

Down at half, US beats Turkey in basketball worlds

BILBAO, Spain (AP) — They figured it would be simple, that they would just beat up on Turkey like they did Finland a night earlier.

Instead, the Americans were the ones on the ropes for nearly three quarters.

"I guess we felt like last night's game was pretty easy and tonight was going to be the same way, but Turkey came out and they gave us their punch from the beginning," forward James Harden said. "We took it and we were sluggish. That second half we played a lot better."

Kenneth Faried scored 22 points, Anthony Davis all of his 19 in the second half, and the U.S. rebounded from a rare deficit at halftime to beat Turkey 98-77 on Sunday in the Basketball World Cup.

A night after crushing Finland by 59 in its biggest rout ever while using NBA players in the former world championship, the Americans couldn't take control against Turkey until early in the fourth quarter after compiling a 17-1 run.

"I think we didn't come ready to play in the first half and we can't afford to do that if we want to win a gold medal," Davis said. "So we've got to come out ready to play no matter who we're playing against."

The Americans trailed 40-35 at halftime and Turkey led by six early in the third before the Americans could finally get the game into the quicker tempo they prefer and pull away to win the rematch of the 2010 gold-medal game in Istanbul.

But it was a much tougher one than expected after the Americans hammered Finland 114-55 while Turkey was being outplayed for most of its opener by New Zealand before pulling out the victory.

Harden added 14 points for the U.S. and Kyrie Irving added 13, playing extended minutes in the second half while struggling Derrick Rose sat.

It was tied at 59 with 3:10 left in the third before the Americans closed the period with a 7-1 burst to lead 66-60 after Faried's basket. The U.S. then ran off 10 in a row to open the fourth and open a 76-60 cushion.

AP

United States's Kyrie Irving, right, goes for the basket in front Turkey's Baris Hersek, left, during the Group C Basketball World Cup match, in Bilbao northern Spain, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014.

The Americans haven't lost since the semifinals of the 2006 world championship and outside of their victories over Spain in the last two Olympic gold-medal games, haven't been in danger much since then.

But they needed a long time to start looking like the team that is so considered the tournament favorite by so many.

"Before the game we talked about we trying to keep the tempo low, in fact slow down the game and we did it very well first half. I think actually three quarters we did it very well," Turkey's Ender Arslan said. "But after, physically United States team is great, they played 40 minutes ... so we get a little bit tired after third quarter and they still played at the same level."

The U.S. beat Turkey 81-64 four years ago to win gold, and though the Turks have eight players remaining from that team, they no longer have their best player, Hedo Turkoglu, or fellow NBA veteran Ersan Ilyasova.

Cenk Akyol led Turkey with 12 points.

The Americans had to break from their pregame warmups to retake the official team picture that every team took Saturday before their opening games, because they were still wearing sweats instead of their uniforms.

They soon had bigger problems than a fashion faux pas.

It was 16-all after one, and Turkey controlled the tempo in the second quarter, getting to the foul line as the Americans showed moments of frustration with the pace and some calls that went against them. Baris Hersek and Emir Preldzic made consecutive 3-pointers late in the half to give Turkey a 38-32 lead.

Unable to force the turnovers or missed shots to get their transition game going, the Americans looked ordinary in the halfcourt. Davis, who scored 17 points in the opener and had been the Americans' best player this summer, was scoreless with one rebound in the half, playing just 10 ½ minutes while picking up two fouls.

"I tried to come out in the second half and just be a different player, just be the player I'm used to being," he said.

Rose showed his timing still isn't back after a nearly two-year absence, missing both shots, turning it over twice and not getting an assist in the first half. He didn't get back into the game until the U.S. had opened the big fourth-quarter lead.

The Americans are off Monday before continuing pool play Tuesday against winless New Zealand.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	79	56	.585	–
New York	70	65	.519	9
Toronto	69	67	.507	10½
Tampa Bay	66	71	.482	14
Boston	60	76	.441	19½
Central Division				
Kansas City	74	61	.548	–
Detroit	74	62	.544	½
Cleveland	70	64	.522	3½
Chicago	62	75	.453	13
Minnesota	59	77	.434	15½
West Division				
Los Angeles	83	53	.610	–
Oakland	78	58	.574	5
Seattle	73	62	.541	9½
Houston	59	79	.428	25
Texas	53	83	.390	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	77	58	.570	–
Atlanta	72	65	.526	6
Miami	66	69	.489	11
New York	64	73	.467	14
Philadelphia	62	74	.456	15½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	73	63	.537	–
St. Louis	73	63	.537	–
Pittsburgh	71	65	.522	2
Cincinnati	66	71	.482	7½
Chicago	61	76	.445	12½
West Division				
Los Angeles	77	60	.562	–
San Francisco	74	62	.544	2½
San Diego	64	71	.474	12
Arizona	57	79	.419	19½
Colorado	54	82	.397	22½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YI

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Joseph Muna topped the A Flight for the second time with a 62 followed by Harry Nakamura's 63 and the 64 of Peter Tenorio.

Luis Tilipao and Prescil D. Azarcon ended up tied on top of the B Flight, but the former won the crown after the scorecard playoff. Shen Kang placed third with a 58.

Frankie Santos bested 49 other golfers in the C Flight with a final score of 40 relegating Frank Duenas and Martin B. Ada to second and third with a 45 and 50, respectively.

A three-way tie took place in the Seniors Flight after Rick Kautz, Tars Olopai, and Norman Tenorio all finished with 57s. Kautz won the division after the scorecard playoff with Olopai and Tenorio finishing second and third, respectively.

Noriko Togawa topped the Ladies Flight with a 64 followed by the 65 and 66 of Jeong Young Im and Cai Yinnu, respectively.

Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson said the one-day fundraising event hit its goal after 144 golfers showed up.

"The Docomo Pacific Golf Classic has become one of the company's signature events over the past years. Now it has grown to be one of the most anticipated tournaments. Though we follow a different scoring format, a lot of golfers still join every year," said Nelson.

"More golfers mean more money for the Marians Tourism Education Council. We want the kids to get the funding they need. Now the program will also cover Tinian and Rota high schools. The young generation needs to know the importance of tourism to the island economy," he added.

JERICHO

From Page 28

Saipan, where he honed his skills in various leagues before earning the chance to wear the CNMI colors in different tournaments in the Oceania region.

The former Adamson University King Falcon was also thankful to all the people who said that he won't be able to survive the high level of basketball competition in the Philippines. He proved those doubters wrong.

"Back in 2009, when I left Saipan, a lot of people doubted me that I can't compete with the players in the Philippines. I took that as a challenge and worked hard to prove them wrong. It was all negative, but I didn't let that get into my head and instead used it as a motivation."

Cruz was chosen ninth overall by Rain or Shine in the first round of the annual rookie draft. He will most likely get the minimum offer given to all rookies drafted in the Top 10.

It was indeed Lucky 9 for Cruz, who recently signed a two-year contract with the Elasto Painters, as it was his jersey number since he started playing and coincidentally his daughter, Pristine Thea, was born March 9.

"Truly, it's been dream come true for me. I've always worked hard. I also get strength from my wife and daughter," added Cruz, who became a father early this year.

The CNMI basketball community also celebrated after Cruz got drafted with his former coaches and teammates sending their congratulatory greetings through social media.

SAN ANTONIO

From Page 28

22 points, but majority of them came in the first quarter where he dominated the paint to help his team keep up with San Antonio. Tudela scored Gliders' last 11 points in the first quarter and had two and-1 plays before getting limited touches in the last three periods and settling for drives instead of going for post-up plays.

Jun Estolas added 21 and had only Adrian Palacios backing him up in the second half where Gliders tried to slice the lead down to single digits and failed. The least that Gliders could do was moved within 10, 83-93, off Estolas fastbreak layup, but the clock was down to less than a minute and San Antonio melted it to keep its safe distance.

Meanwhile, the Destroyers kept its quarterfinals bid alive after beating TBK Mechanics in the second game, 98-89.

The Destroyers held TBK to 14 points in the second canto, the latter's lowest output, to turn a precarious 23-22 lead to a 48-36 advantage at the half. Elmer Esdrelon anchored the Destroyers' 25-14 scoring binge, dropping 10 points, while Edwin Santos chipped in 6. Santos drilled the Destroyers' first three baskets in the second period and was also on a zone in the third, registering a string of 10 points and 14 in that quarter alone to pad the Destroyers' lead, 80-63, entering the fourth canto.

In the final period, the Destroyers countered every basket TBK converted to preserve the lead and gain its third win in seven games.

First Game

Destroyers 98 – Esdrelon 28, Santos 27, Duenas 13, Guiab 11, Tengco 5, Serrano 4, Fernandez 2.

TBK Mechanics 89 – Catalla 23, Fitial 21, I. Devero 18, N. Mateo 13, Velasco 5, Pangelinan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 23-22, 48-36, 80-63, 98-89.

Second Game

San Antonio 97 – Alegre 19, Espinosa 17, Mendoza 15, De Guzman 13, Factor 11, Arciaga 9, Fidelino 6, Aranda 6, Javier 2.

Gliders 85 – Tudela 22, Estolas 21, Palacios 15, Cadiang 8, Villanueva 8, Bernardo 6, Cabrera 4.

Scoring by quarters: 26-24, 57-42, 76-61, 97-85.

Bandits hand SSFM first loss in DLX, 81-80

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselynx_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bandits snapped SSFM's winning run after escaping with an 81-80 win in the lone game played in the 2014 DLX Invitational Basketball League last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Gerald Aniciete made his second free throw with no time left to lift the Bandits to the 1-point win and hand the team its third victory in four games. SSFM absorbed its first defeat after six games after muffing two crucial shots and committing a costly foul in the homestretch.

Aniciete trooped to the line after he drew a foul on SSFM's Mike Espinosa. According to league officials, the crucial call happened after SSFM faltered on two attempts. Jerome Norita went up for a shot first in the last 10 seconds of the match and missed, while Cecilio Bisana grabbed the offensive board and went for a putback, but was also unsuccessful. Aniciete then secured the rebound and Espinosa's arms were wrapped around him as both players went down the floor and then time expired. Aniciete faltered on his first free throw attempt, keeping SSFM's hopes alive, but not for long, as the lanky Bandits forward hit the second one to steal the victory.

Jaymark De Guzman top-scored for the Bandits with his 24 points, while Angelo Fernando chipped in 20, 10 of them came in the fourth quarter, as he led the team's comeback bid. The fourth period started with the Bandits behind by 7 points, 55-62, and they kept SSFM at bay with Fernando heating up in the latter part of the final canto. After drilling his first two field goals in the early goings of the fourth, Fernando scored 6 straight markers past the halfway mark of the fourth quarter.

Aniciete also nailed a basket in the opening minute of the fourth and added two clutch free throws in the end, while J.R. Barrios tallied 5 of his 10 points in the final half of the payoff period. De Guzman, on the other hand, carried the load for the Bandits in the first three periods, firing 10 markers in the third to prevent an SSFM breakaway.

SSFM tasted its biggest lead in the third, 62-53, as Bisana and Espinosa fueled the team's offense. Bisana exploded for 11 points in the third frame, while Espinosa chipped in 9. Bisana led SSFM with his 23 markers, but was held to 2 points in the fourth canto, while Espinosa contributed 17 and was scoreless in the last frame. Djay Ong was the third SSFM to break into double figures with his 21 points, teaming up with Norita in withstanding the Bandits' fightback.

Meanwhile, the six other games last week were rained-out and will be rescheduled on a later date. With the majority of the matches called off, the team standings remain the same with defending champion Ali'i on top with its 4-0 record, followed by SSFM (4-1), Bandits (3-1), Flip Top (3-2), Gwap Gang (2-2), Ghasias Brothers (2-4), Hite Beer (0-5), and Morales Boys (0-3).

Bandits 81 – De Guzman 24, Fernando 20, Barrios 12, Guaib 10, Aniciete 4.

SSFM 80 – Bisana 23, Ong 21, Espinosa 17, Aguon 6, Norita 6, Tobias 4.

Scoring by quarters: 10-14, 32-34, 55-62, 81-80.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bandits' Jaymar De Guzman goes up for a reverse layup against SSFM's Cecilio Bisana, left, and Mike Espinosa during the first quarter of their game in the DLX caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

NMSA seeks Hall of Fame nominees

The search is on for the newest inductee to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame.

"The Northern Marianas Sports Association's special committee for the Sports Hall of Fame is now accepting nominations for individuals to be considered as inductees for 2015. As many as four individuals will be inducted in to the SHOF in February 2015 as an athlete, coach, official, or administrator," said committee official and CNMI Hall of Famer Dr. Kurt Barnes.

Individuals selected will get recognition at the 2015 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet and will join the elite group of athletes and officials who made significant contributions to the Commonwealth sports. Besides Barnes, others who made the select circle were Jean and Bill Sakovich, Kurt Barnes, Mike VIllagomez, Jeff Race, Frank Castro, Tony Rogolifoi, Tony Satur, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios, Cecilia Lisua, Jose Tenorio Sablan, Ricardo Duenas, Antonio Benavente, the late Jess Wabol and Irene Alpet, Mel Sakisat, Michael White, and Bertha Chong. White, Sakisat and Chong were the latest inductees, as they were lauded early this year during the 2014 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet at the Seaside Hall of the Kanoa Resort.

NMSA and its special committee for the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame have set criteria for SHOF nominees. Athletes and officials must be at least 35 years old and should be involved in his/her sports for at least 10 years. For coaches and administrators, age requirement is at least 45, while minimum involvement in sports is 15 years. Nominees must be a U.S. citizen or have achieved distinction as a CNMI representative and must have resided in the Commonwealth for at least 10 years. Nominations could be made only by local federations that have good standing with NMSA. Deadline for submission of nominees is set for Sept. 30.

"Nominations should contain a cover letter detailing the individual's name, age, years in specific sport, specific sport being nominated for, whether the individual is an athlete, coach, administrator or official and why the individual is being nominated. A second page must include statistics or information regarding the nominee's experience background," Barnes said.

Selections will be made during the NMSA meeting at the end of the year. NMSA is allowed to choose as many as three athletes every year, but no more than two could be of the same gender and no more than one from one sport. As for the other categories, only one coach and one administrator/official may be inductee to the elite circle every year.

Nomination documents can be dropped off at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium or emailed to Barnes at dr.kurtbarnes@rocketmail.com. For more information, contact Tony Rogolifoi or Elias Rangamar at 234-6674 or Barnes at 235-5853. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMASA president Michael White, right, is congratulated by NMASA secretary Ross Igitol after the former was inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame during the 2014 NMASA Awards Banquet held early this year at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

Magic 8-ball grabs lead in Thursday league

Smoke Pub Magic 8-Ball seized the overall lead to signify its intention of battling for the crown in the weekly 2014 Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League held last Thursday in various bars on the island.

Smoke Pub, which was in fourth place a few weeks ago, racked up 13 wins to improve to 21-9 to relegate early leader Poseidon Titans to second place (20-10).

National Alamo Car Rental, which was fifth last week, climbed to third at 17-13 while Route 33 Armatech Hustler and Joker Homeboyz are tied from fourth to fifth with 15-15 records making the race to the title tighter.

Wild Bill's Wild Wild West (14-16), Barcode Breakers (11-19) and Jonny's Team SCS (7-3) are the other competing teams.

Jokers Str8 Shooters, in the Tuesday league, is joined by sister team IT&E Voyagers, and Jonnys Crazy 8 on top of the six-team field with 19-11 marks.

Smoke Pub Sang&D'Gang and Saipan TV Hustler are tied from fourth to fifth spots with 13-17 cards, while Smoke Pub Lanchun Girls is at the bottom of the standings at 7-23.

Tuesday League games on Sept. 2 will have the Voyagers, Lanchun Girls, and Hustler hosting the Crazy 8, Shooters, and Sang&D'Gang, respectively, in the home-and-away format. ***(Jon Perez)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Poseidon Titans are in a tight race for the Saipan Billiards Association 2014 Budweiser Thursday 8-Ball League crown.

Angels trounce A's 8-1 to complete 4-game sweep

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Wozniacki outlasts Sharapova, in US Open quarters

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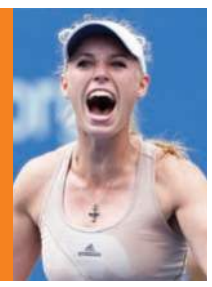

Yi tops Docomo Golf Classic

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The short rain delay did not rattle Chaeson Yi as the veteran par-buster ruled the hotly contested Championship Flight in the 5th Docomo Pacific Golf Classic held Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman.

The three-handicapper Yi tamed the 6,330-yard par-72 East course with a gross score of 69 to beat seven other golfers in the Championship Flight of the annual tournament, which got delayed due to the early morning rain and thunderstorm.

He had a high/low score of six and with the tournament following a Peoria scoring system he finished with a 60 at the Greg Norman-designed layout for that one-shot win over J.J. Atalig.

Atalig shot an overall 75 with a three handicap and a high/low score of 11 gave him a 61, while Nick Sablan came in third with a 63.

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JON PEREZ

Chaeson Yi, left, receives his first place plaque and cash prize from Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson after topping the Championship Flight of last Saturday's 5th Docomo Pacific Golf Classic at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman.

KC CRUZ

Jericho Cruz is all smiles after being drafted ninth overall by Rain or Shine in the 2014 Philippines Basketball Association Draft held last Aug. 24 at Robinson's Place in Manila, Philippines.

Jericho remains in Cloud 9 after being drafted in PBA

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

It has already been one week since Jericho Cruz was drafted by Rain or Shine in the Philippine Basketball Association, but still the reality of seeing his lifelong dream come true hasn't sunk in for the former Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands standout.

The date of Aug. 24, 2014, will be one of the most memorable moments of Cruz's life, along with being a dad early this year, getting picked and clinching a title with Blackwater Sports under coach Leo Isaac in the PBA Developmental League, and helping the Philippines win a gold medal in the 2013 Southeast Asian Games in Myanmar.

"I'm happy and blessed that I'm finally part of the Rain or Shine family. But, still I couldn't believe that I'm already in the PBA. As if, it was just yesterday that I dreamt of playing in the PBA and I thought I never had the chance to get in," said Cruz in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

"But hey I'm here now, facing the reality. I am so blessed and all my hard work is already paying off. One of the reason I've achieved this because all of the support of my family and friends [on Saipan], and the grace of God."

Cruz's PBA dream started on

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San Antonio's Jaymark De Guzman leaps to challenge the shot of Gliders' J.P. Villanueva, while Prince Factor stays in the play for help defense during the second quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

San Antonio clinches outright semis seat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

San Antonio bagged the automatic semis berth in the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 4, following an impressive 97-85 win over Gliders last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

San Antonio finished the round-robin elimination with a 7-1 record and is currently on top of the team standings, ahead of fellow semifinalist Hite Jinro (6-1). The Top 2 teams in the nine-squad field are given the outright semis tickets, while the No. 3 and 4 finishers are awarded quarterfinal berths. The No. 5 to 8 placers will battle for the two playoff berths and challenge the No. 3 and 4 finishers for the last two semis seats, while the cellar dweller will be eliminated.

Gliders is in danger of going through the first round of the playoffs, as it fell to a 4-3 slate and absorbed back-to-back losses over the weekend. Gliders first bowed to TBK Mechanics last Friday, 84-88, and failed to recover quickly after an early collapse in the second quarter.

The second canto began with San Antonio on top by only 2 points, 26-24, and Gliders was still in the game in the first half of that period behind by only six, 36-42. However, Gliders was stuck to 36 markers for about three minutes, while San Antonio scored 11 points to widen the gap, 53-36. A floater from Adrian Palacios ended Gliders' silence, but still San Antonio wrapped up the first half with a promising 57-42 advantage.

San Antonio went on to protect its double-digit spread, as it distributed the ball well in the second half and consistently hit its outside shots, while escaping with several fastbreak layups. Four of San Antonio's starters tallied twin digits with Mike Espinosa drilling 17 points, Kobe Mendoza adding 15, and Jaymark De Guzman and Prince Factor contributing 13 and 11, respectively. Bryle Alegre came off the bench and top-scored for San Antonio with his 19 markers.

Jimmy Tudela led Gliders with his

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